The Official Magazine of World Championship Wrestling Issue 11 January 1996

Happy Holidays & a Happy New Year

WCW World Championship Wrestling

The 4 Horsemen ride again

features on Anderson, Pillman & Benoit inside

CAN WCW TAME SABU?

HOGAN BETRAYED AT 1995 HALLOWEEN HAVOC

WCW

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Editor's Note

Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah and the very best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year from all of us at WCW Magazine. You've certainly made our work enjoyable throughout 1995 and I hope you will continue your support for us in 1996.

Inside this issue you will find the ballot form for the 1995 Reader Awards. This is your chance to have your say and let your favorites know how much you think of them. I know that WCW wrestlers value these awards above all others. So don't hesitate, send in your entry today.

Well we're one pay-per-view away from completing 1995 and I can't remember a time when tensions in the locker rooms were running so high. Although there are still alliances present in WCW, you get the feeling that one sniff of an opportunity to climb the WCW ladder is all it would take to blow even the strongest team apart.

Isn't it great?

This is what wrestling should be like. Who was it who deemed that you had to be a fan favorite or a rulebreaker? Why did fellow rulebreakers or fan favorites for that matter, never get a title shot because one of their comrades held the belt? Just think back to all those dream matches it would have been great to see but were denied to the fans because of this strange and unique phenomenon. In no other sport do the main protagonists never have to face each other. My colleague Mark Madden frequently makes the point that the fans should choose who they like and cheer for them accordingly, regardless if their favorite has a propensity for bending the rules. He always cites Ric Flair as an example to illustrate this point (and every other point for that matter). For years now, Flair has been the 'dirtiest player in the game' yet he has a cult following second to none.

Why has WCW evolved this way? The answer is simple...NITRO. Everyone wants to be featured. WCW leads the way and nobody wants to be left behind. Look at some of the classic match-ups we've seen already. Liger vs Pillman; Hogan vs Luger; Norton vs Shark; Guerrero vs Badd; and right at deadline time the all-time dream match, Sting vs Hogan had been scheduled. These were all matches which gave the fans a hard time placing their allegiances. Just think what other matches it would be great to see. In fact write in, lets see if we can influence some decisions here. I personally would like to see Johnny B. Badd against Marcus Bagwell, Alex Wright or Randy Savage. And talking about the "Macho Man," I still think he would be a great match for Hogan or how about him against Sting. Meng against The Giant or Ric Flair. The possibilities are endless so get writing.

On a personal note I'd just like to thank all my columnists and the people who work tirelessly behind the scenes. Special thanks to Lynn Brent, Ross Forman and Bob Smith.

Best Wishes,

Colin Bowman
Editor

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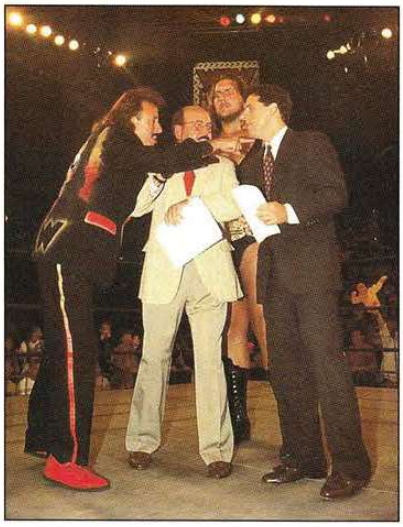
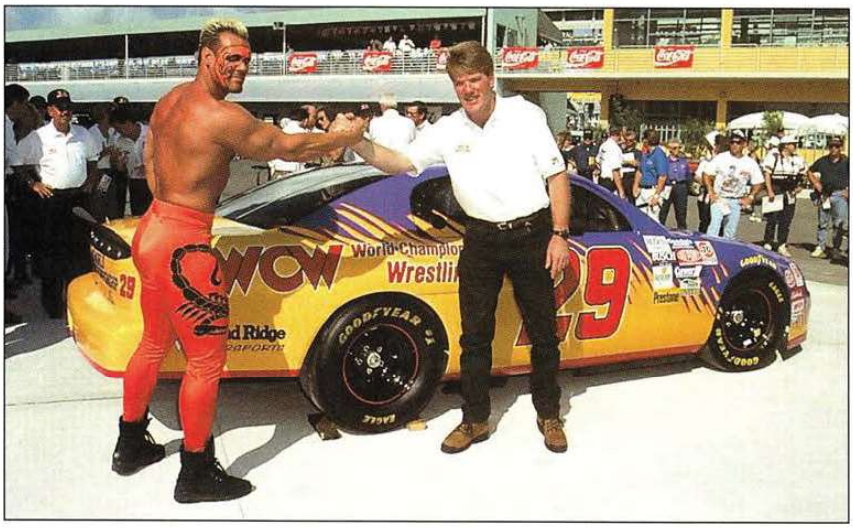
HALLOWEEN HAVOC: The Fallout



In response to the many requests we have received, here is the transcript of the announcement made by Nick Lambros when he declared the World Heavyweight title vacant, following Jimmy Hart's betrayal of The Hulkster.

"Jimmy Hart is partially correct; he did have Hulk Hogan's power-of-attorney to sign this contract. But, he (pointing at The Giant) is not the World Champion. I have been on the phone with WCW Commissioner Nick Bockwinkel; he has convened with the WCW Commissioners and they have issued this statement: Not withstanding that Hulk Hogan's contract to wrestle The Giant contained a clause that provided he would lose the Championship belt in the event of a disqualification, because of the dubious nature of the disqualification, the WCW Championship Committee has determined that the WCW World Heavyweight title will be held up and will now be awardedto the winner of the three-ring, 60-man battle royal at World War 3 in Norfolk, Virginia."

BACK ON TRACK



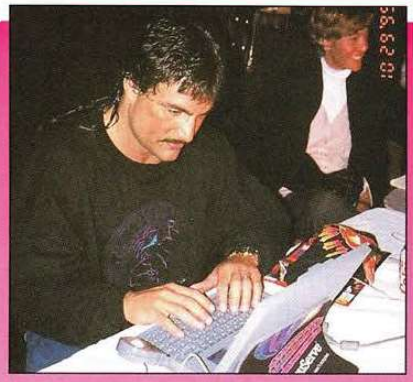
WCW has formed a powerful tag team with Diamond Ridge Motorsports for the upcoming NASCAR Busch Series.

WCW have sponsored the #29 car of 1993 NASCAR Busch Series champion Steve Grissom in a move that ignites exciting cross-promotional opportunities for the multi-year deal.

"Racing and wrestling are a great match for Turner Sports," said Dr. Harvey Schiller, president of Turner Sports. Inc. "WCW and Diamond Ridge Motorsports are proven winners that have all the ingredients of success for a tremendous sponsorship."

"We are thrilled to be associated with WCW and Turner Sports. This provides the team with strong exposure with WCW on TBS and TNT," said Gary Betchel, owner of Diamond Ridge Motorsports. "This is the ultimate sports entertainment team. We plan to have some fun and win some races."

The final word came from Steve Grissom seen here with Sting, "I'm sure glad the big guys from WCW are on my side, you just can't have enough 300 pound friends!"



WCW Online

WCW served up a special treat on October 29, during the Halloween Havoc show. WCW fans were able to participate in chat sessions in the Convention Center on the world's leading online service CompuServe. Several WCW superstars including "Macho Man" Randy Savage, Johnny B. Badd and Eddy Guerrero participated in the cyberspace adventure. It was a highly successful and enjoyable affair and one that WCW will be repeating in the not too distant future. If you would like to receive the free software necessary to sign up contact 1-800-524-3388 and ask for rep no. 781. Sign on today...you could be "speaking" to your favorite WCW superstars tomorrow.

GERMAN CONNECTION

There were some very special guests at Halloween Havoc. Thirty members of WCW's German Fan Club made the long trip to Detroit so they could be ringside for this mega-event. The evening before the show they attended a special reception held in their honor and were visited by Hacksaw Jim Duggan, Renegade, Wild Cat Willie and Jimmy Hart. Hart showed no signs of the heinous actions he would commit 24 hours later and even presented his Fall Brawl t-shirt to one lucky fan.

SHOCKER

Right on our deadline we heard that Sting had lost the U.S. Championship in Tokyo to Kensuke Sasaki. We have no other details at press time, but we are sure the result had a lot to do with Sting's state of mind and who could blame him. The past two months have not been easy to say the least. His closest friend Lex Luger returns and feuds with his other friends Hulk Hogan and Randy Savage. He is betrayed by Ric Flair and then is thrust into a match against The Hulkster. Under these circumstances it is surprising he hasn't lost his mind as well.

CONTROL CENTER

WCW STARRCADE 1995

The grand-daddy of them all, Starrcade once again returns to the Nashville Municipal Auditorium on December 27, 1995. Tickets are available from the box office and Ticketmaster and cost $35, $18, $15 and $9. We advise you to get yours as soon as possible, remember last years event was a complete sellout. But remember if you are unlucky, call your local cable operator and order the show on pay-per-view at a cost of $27.95.

At press time scheduled for action are Sting, Lex Luger, Johnny B. Badd, Chris Benoit, Eddy Guerrero, Kensuke Sasaki , Masa Chono and Jushin "Thunder" Liger.

This is one show not too miss. The rivalry between New Japan and WCW has reached its melting point and WCW's superstars are not only battling for their reputations, but America's.

INTERACTIVE CARDS

Interactive Solutions launched a new Randy Savage phone card prior to Halloween Havoc which is available from 7-11 stores. A crowd of over 1000 people crammed into the parking lot at the 7-11 in Dearborn, MI to meet the "Macho Man" who was on hand to sign autographs and pose for pictures. As part of an on going promotion WCW superstars will be appearing at 7-11 stores nationwide, so keep an eye on your local press.

BANNED

We had hoped to bring you a feature this issue from the WCW World in Japan show that took place on November 13. However, just prior to our departure we received a notification from Sonny Onoo that we would not be permitted to attend the show as we were an inferior American magazine with incompetent photographers not worthy of shooting in Japan. For a fee he would ensure that we would receive high quality Japanese coverage of the event. Unfortunately we have not yet received them. Maybe next month. So much for Japanese efficiency.

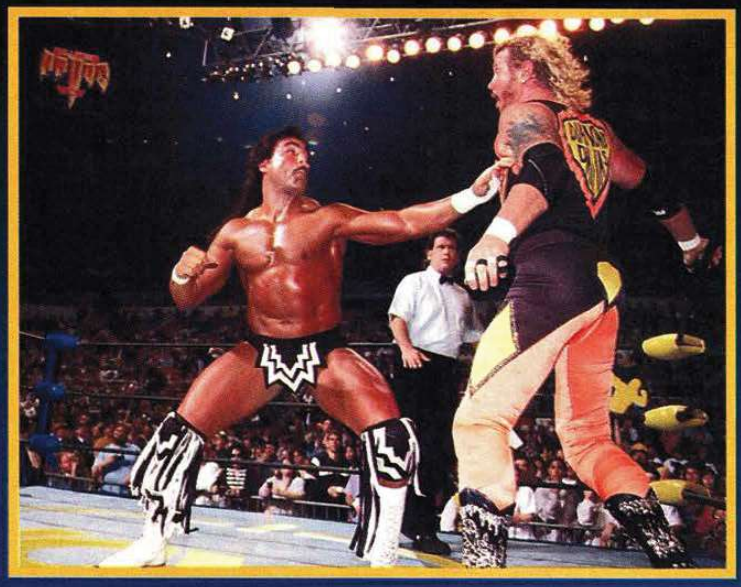
HERE COMES THE JUDGE

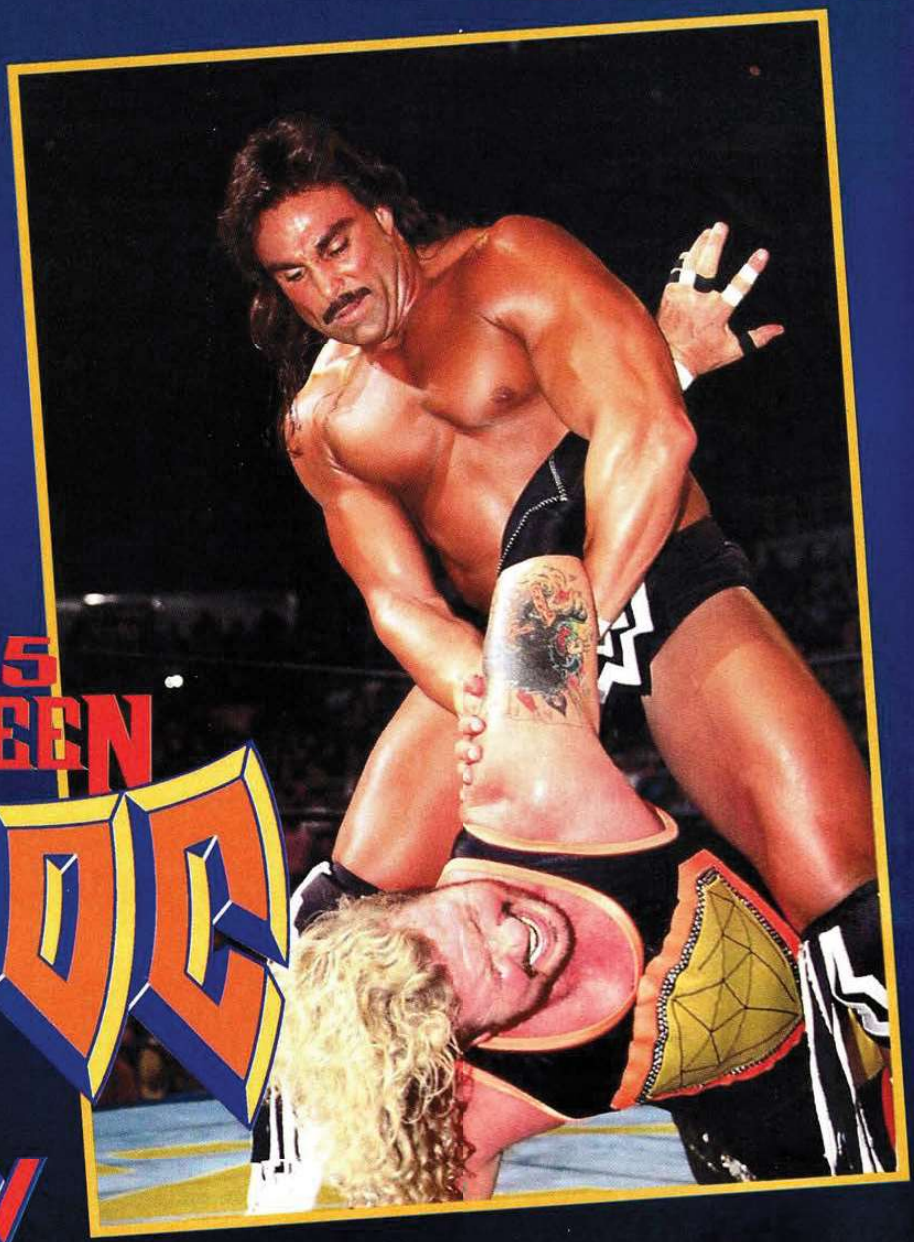
Johnny B. Badd has been selected to serve as a celebrity judge for a National Children's Essay Contest being sponsored by Action on Smoking and Health. He is in good company as he will be joined by other judges including comedian, Steve Allen; Diane Disney Miller, Secretary of the American Cancer Society Foundation Board and daughter of the late Walt Disney; Richard Marx, critically acclaimed singer/songwriter; Mike Peluso, NHL star left wing for the 1995 Stanley Cup winning New Jersey Devils; and Louis W. Sullivan, M.D., the former Secretary of Health and Human Services. Children between the ages of 4 and 16 are being asked to write a short letter to President Clinton telling him of their own experiences as to why he should go ahead with his plans to have the FDA protect children from becoming smokers. A $1,000 prize will be awarded to the best letters in each category.

BIRTHDAY CORNER

December 19 **Mean Gene Okerlund**
December 23 **Great Muta**
January 1 **Jimmy Hart**
January 10 **Marcus Bagwell**
January 14 **Hacksaw Jim Duggan**

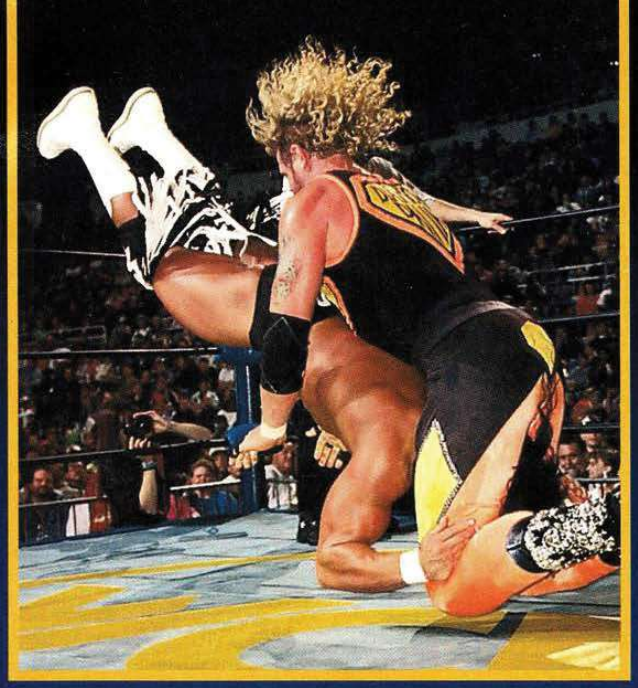
All WCW pay-per-view spectaculars make mat history, but never before has one event been so downright frightening... exciting...and full of stirring victories and bloodthirsty betrayals! Just before the Eve of All Hallows, WCW fans at the Joe Louis Arena in Detroit, as well as millions more watching on PPV, got some of their most jarring jolts ever at...

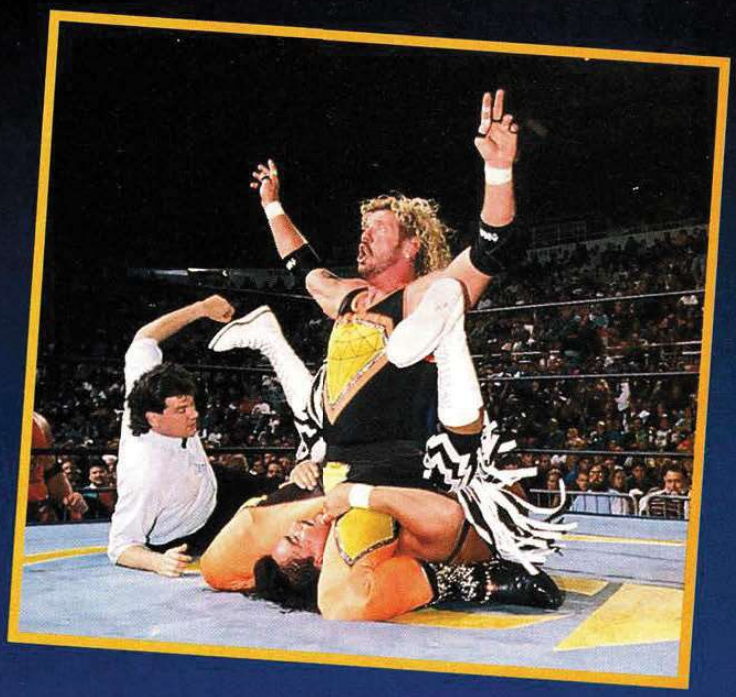




1995 HALLOWEEN HAVOC

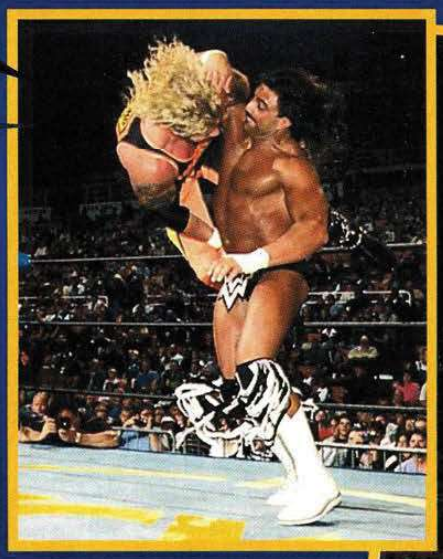
WCW NIGHT OF

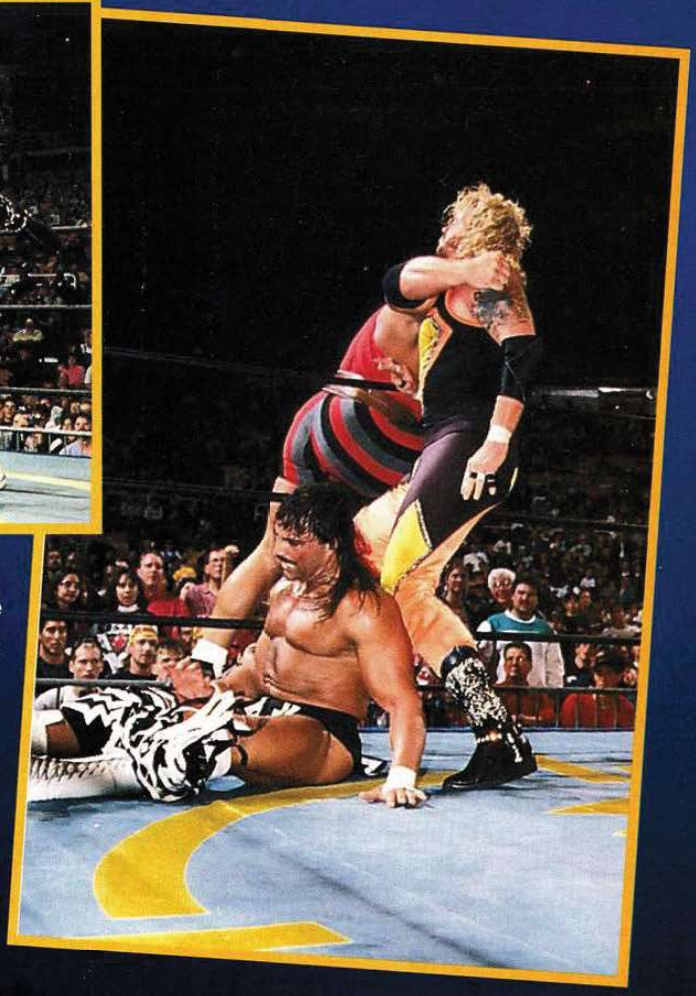




DIAMOND DALLAS PAGE

JOHNNY B. BADD

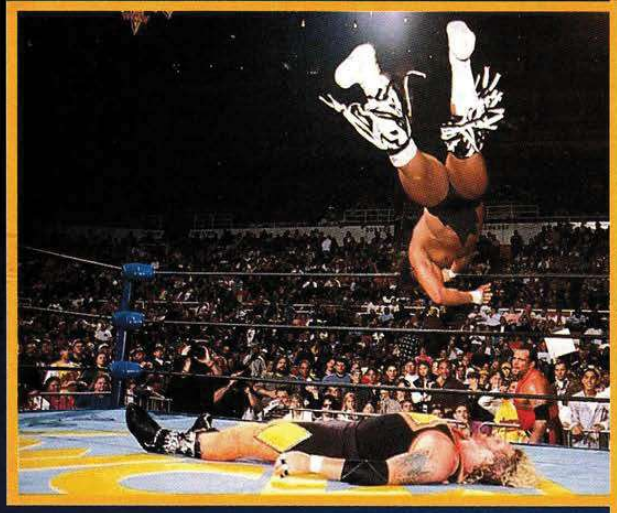


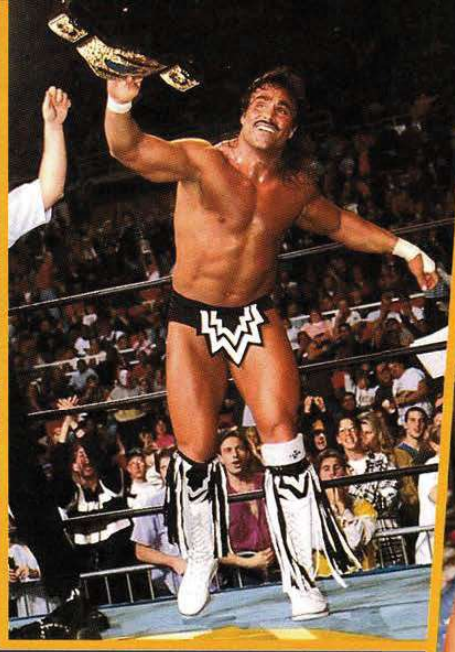


WCW World Television Title Bout

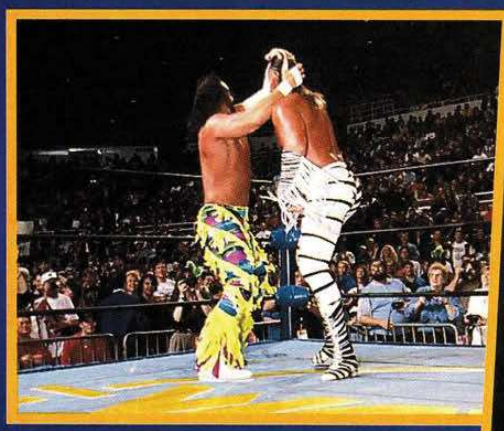
Ironic, isn't it? Even his most ardent critic would have to admit that DDP wrestled the match of his life in this thrilling Havoc opener — and he lost the bout AND the Television Championship! Both Page and the "Badd Man" pulled out all the stops in this classic encounter, with neither able to gain a pinfall after more than 10 minutes of nip-and-tuck action. Things looked good for Johnny when he brilliantly blasted both DDP and his stooge, Max Muscle, with a "Badd Mood"...

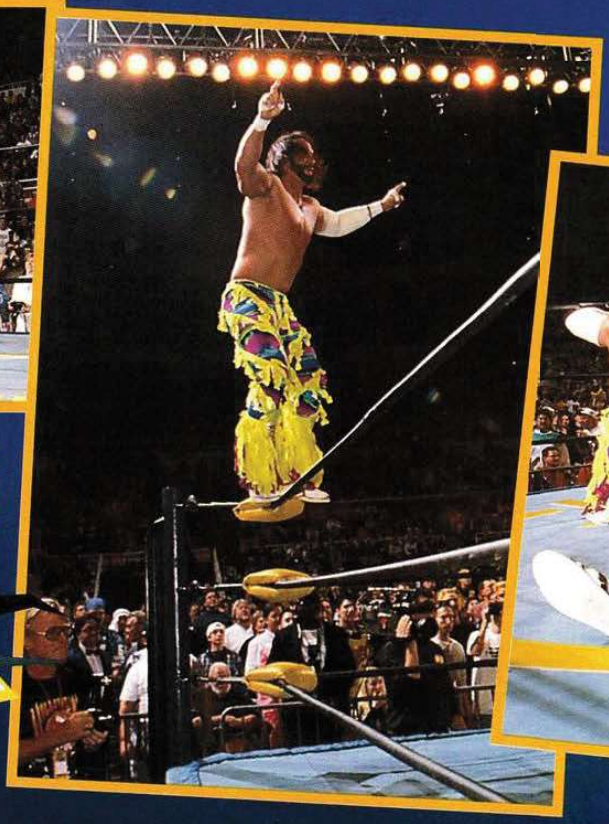
HORRORS!

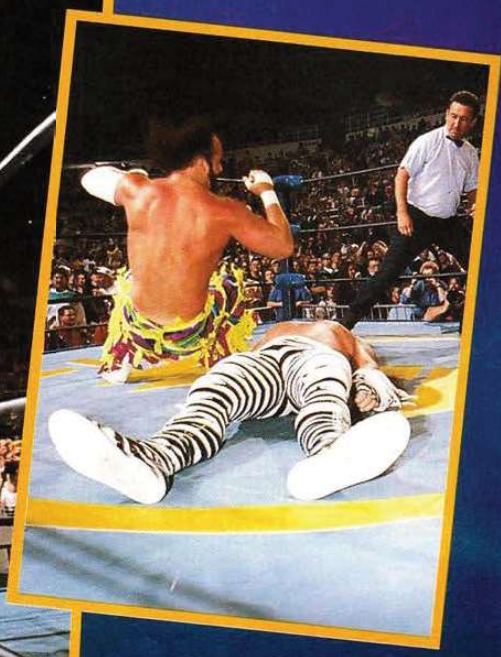




...from over the top rope to outside the ring! Later, Page and Max brutally double-teamed Johnny. As Dallas held Badd in a full-nelson, Max took a swing, but Johnny ducked and Max knocked out his own boss! After Badd scored the stirring pinfall, how did the gorgeous Diamond Doll Kimberly react? She smiled and held up a "10" hailing the new World Television Champion!

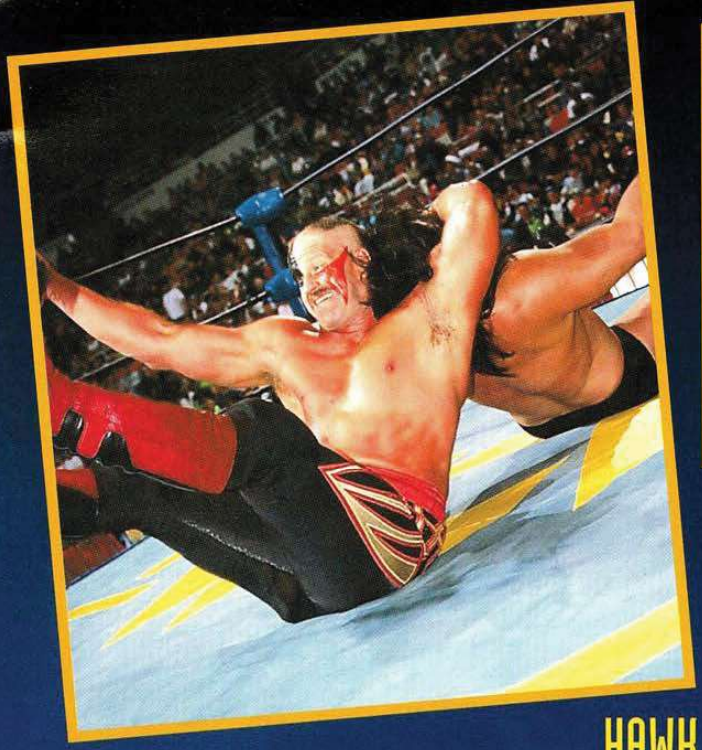


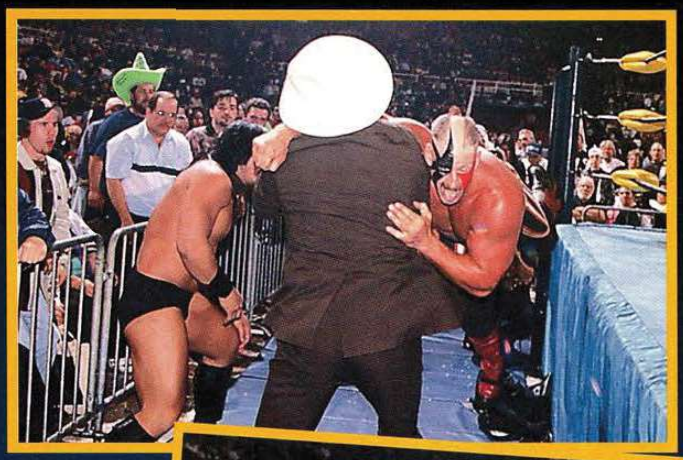


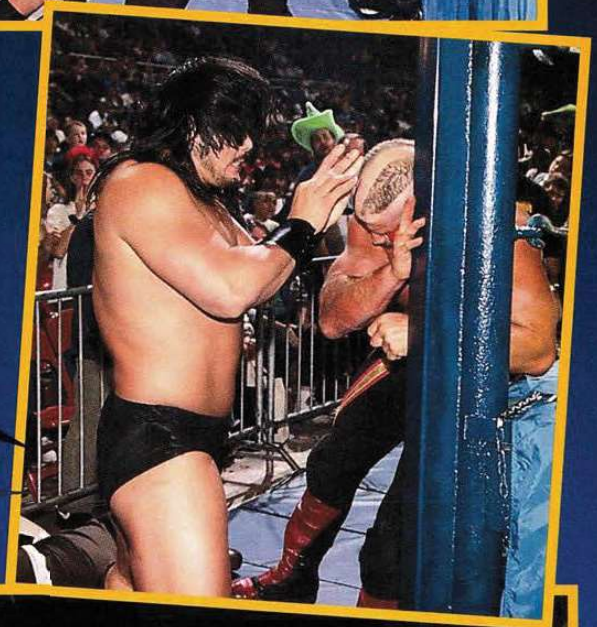


RANDY SAVAGE VS ZODIAC

The "Yes/No" Man substituted for Kamala in this bout as The Dungeon of Doom continued its shuffling of competitors, but in reality it didn't particularly matter who the "Macho Man" took on in his first match of the evening. That's because Savage was chomping at the bit to get his hands on Lex Luger and he had to win this match to earn the right to face the "Total Package" as long as Luger could defeat Meng later on the card. Teeming with competitive fire, Savage blasted the crazed Zodiac, eventually scoring the pinfall after slamming him with his incredible top-turnbuckle elbowdrop!

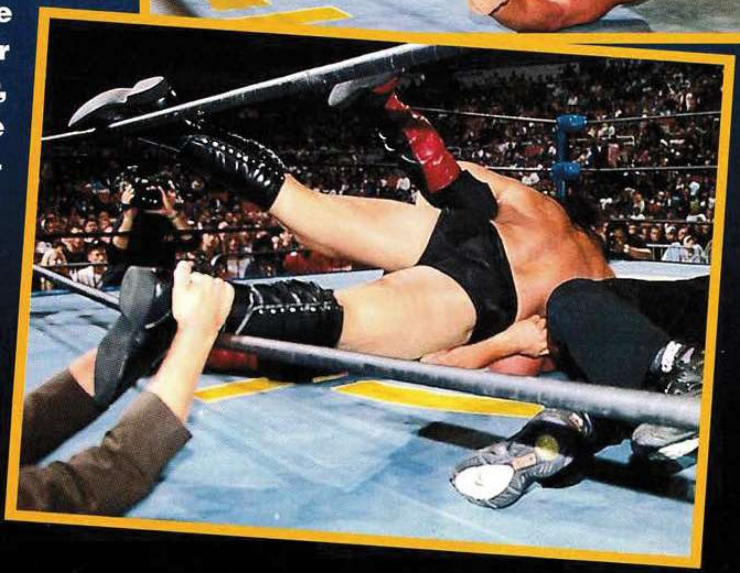


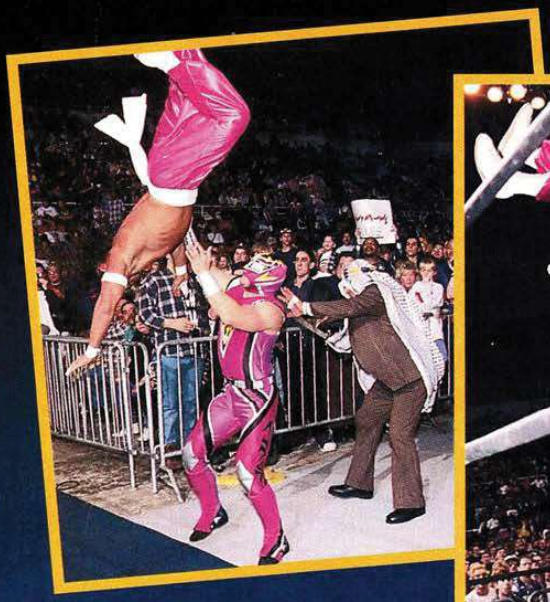


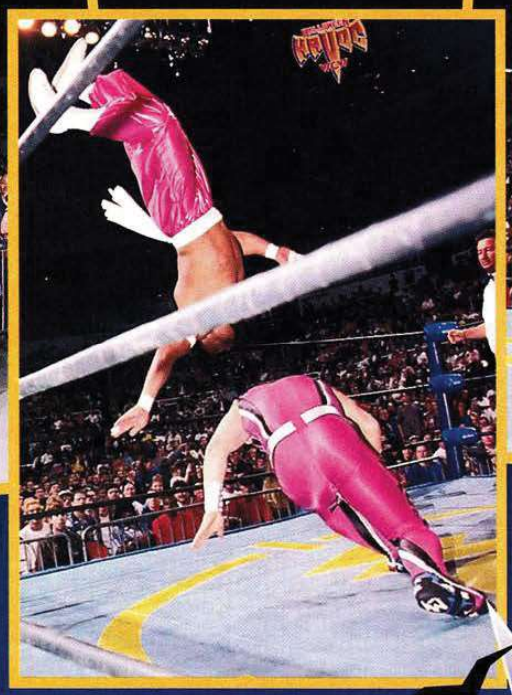


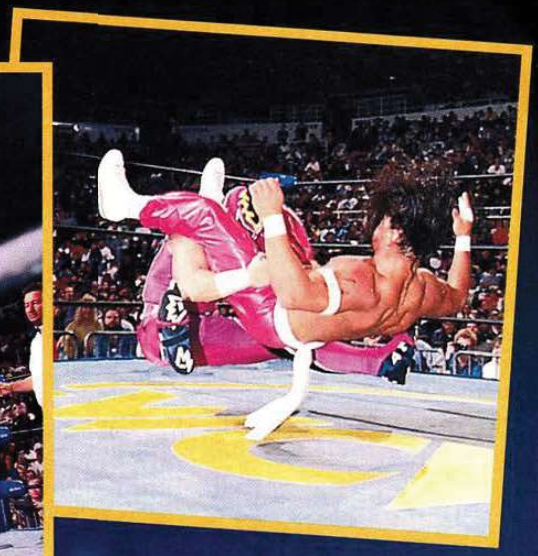
HAWK VS KURASAWA

After Kurasawa intentionally broke the Road Warrior's arm at the last **Clash of the Champions**, it was obvious to everyone that Hawk didn't just want to win this bout. He also wanted to teach Kurasawa and the devious Col. Parker just what being a tough WCW superstar was all about! At the opening bell, Hawk throttled the Japanese competitor and followed it up with textbook reverse neckbreaker that nearly won the match for Hawk in record time! Later, Kurasawa missed a flying kneedrop and Hawk smashed him with a clothesline, sending Kurasawa hurtling over the top rope and out of the ring. Next, Hawk brought the fans to their feet as he delivered a flying clothesline to Parker as he stood outside the ring! However, it was Parker's interference that made the difference. Kurasawa crucifix-dropped Hawk, then put his legs on the second rope for leverage while the Colonel held Hawk's leg down! Kurasawa scored a disgusting illegal victory, but you can be sure that Hawk is hotter than ever and ready to take on Kurasawa again and again until he drives him from WCW for good!



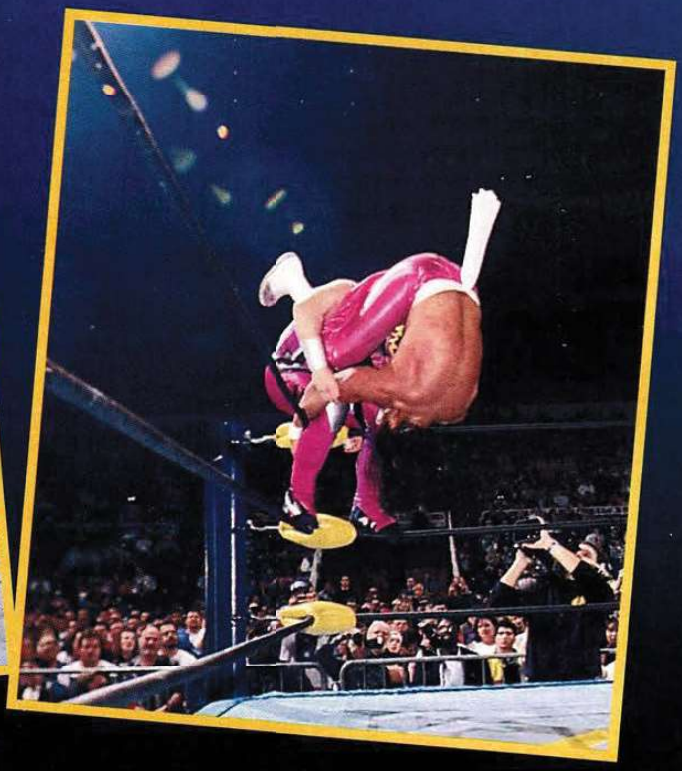


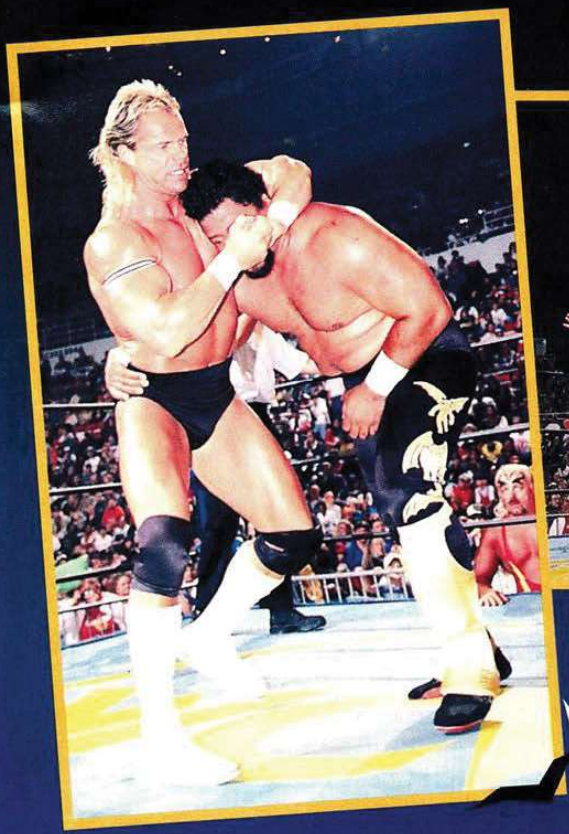


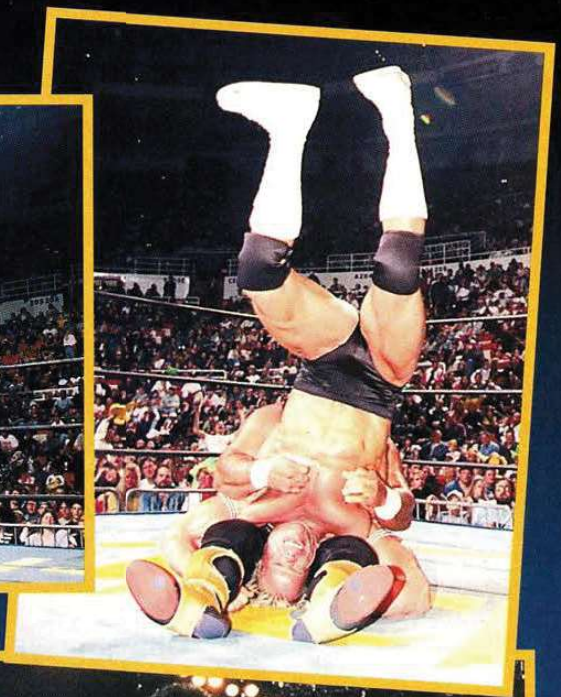


SABU VS MR. J.L.

Like your action wild? These two young high-flying sensations soared in and out of the ring as they battled in a key match-up between rising stars. J.L. might not have counted on a key element to this bout. Accompanying Sabu to the ring was his mentor, the ferocious Original Sheik! Amazingly, the bout got off to a fast start, when a Sabu moonsault caught both J.L. and Sheik. Sabu's incredible flying slingshot bounding splash from the top rope scored him the pinfall, but that wasn't even the end of J.L's misery. Seconds after Sabu's pin, Sheik hurled a huge ball of fire right into the prone J.L's face! Sheik has been a mat superstar for five decades, but to this day, no one is sure how he's able to conjure up those deadly balls of fire!

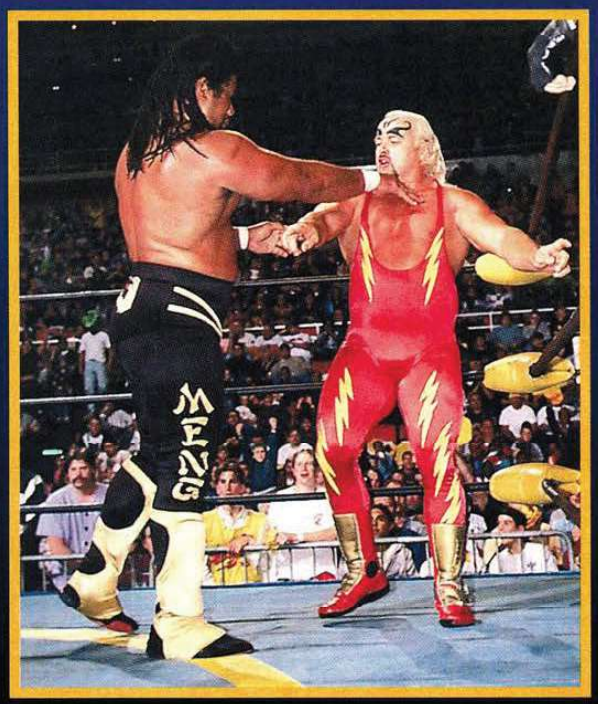


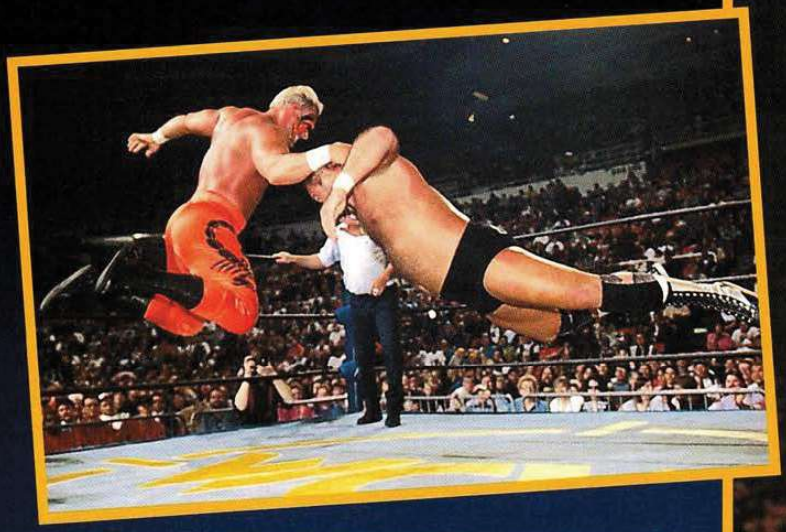


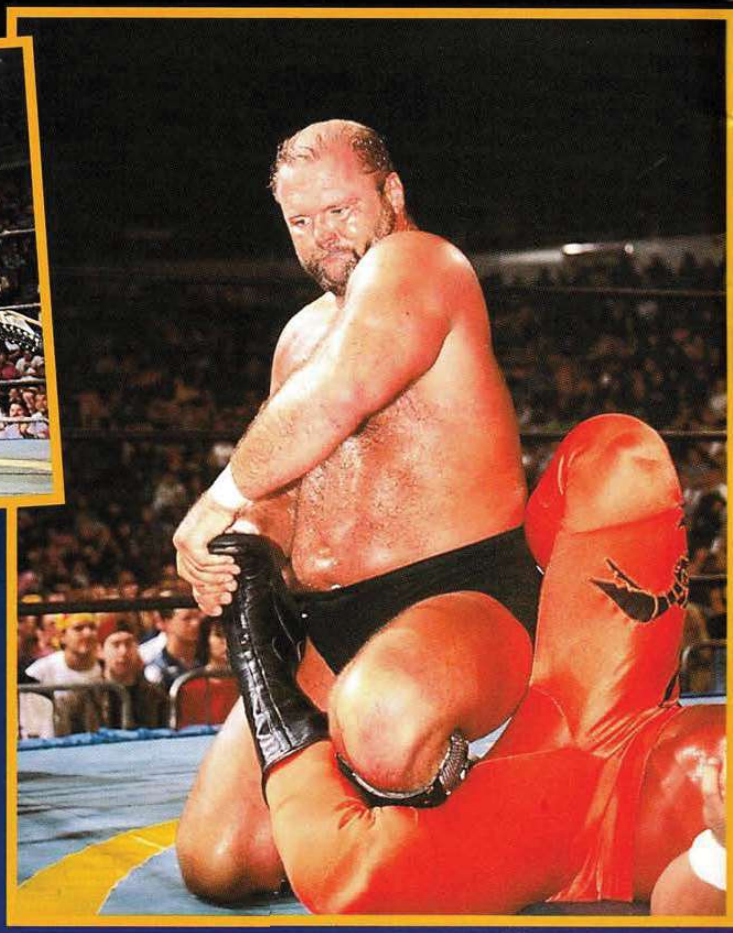


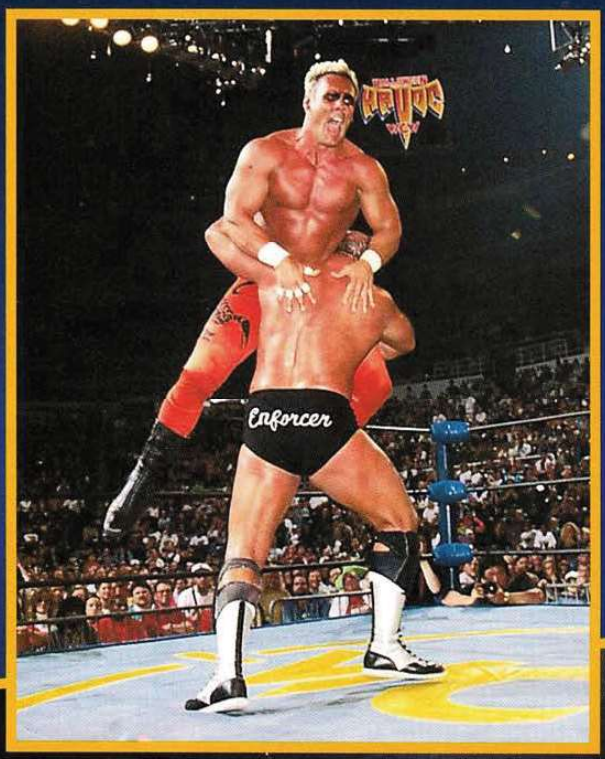
MENG VS LEX LUGER

The result of this match, it later would be proven, was academic. Fans were puzzled as Taskmaster Kevin Sullivan stormed the ring and kicked Luger — after his karate expert had blasted Luger with an Asiatic Spike and covered him for the pin — causing Meng to lose by disqualification. Why was Sullivan chastising Meng for his efforts following the bout? Later, it would all become clear. Meng wouldn't win, but Sullivan didn't want Luger to lose either, more on that later...

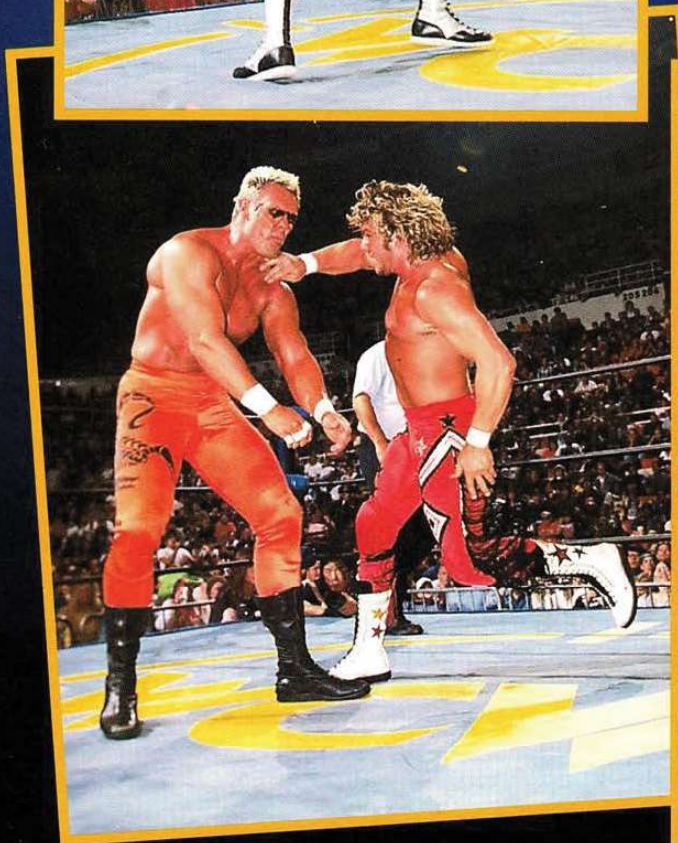


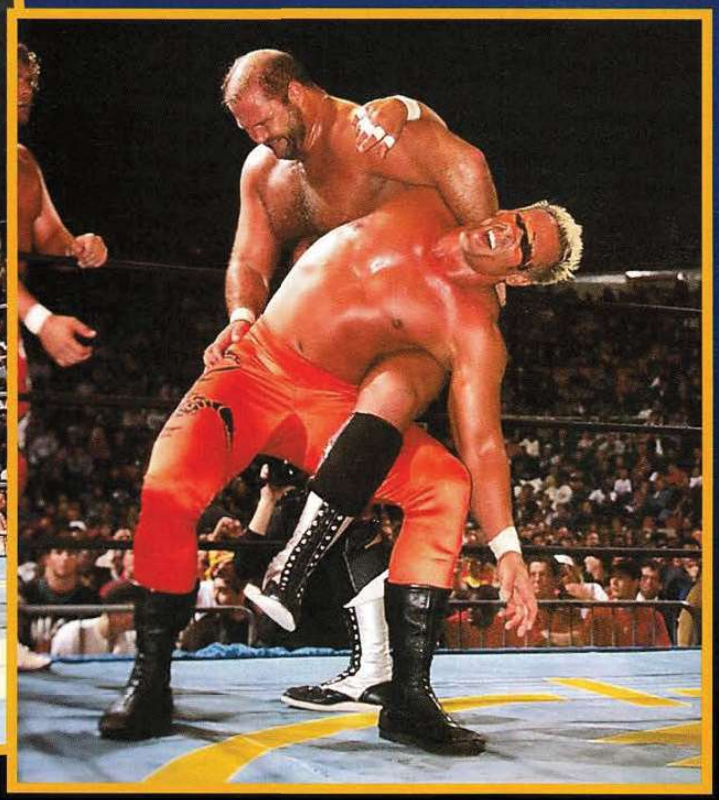


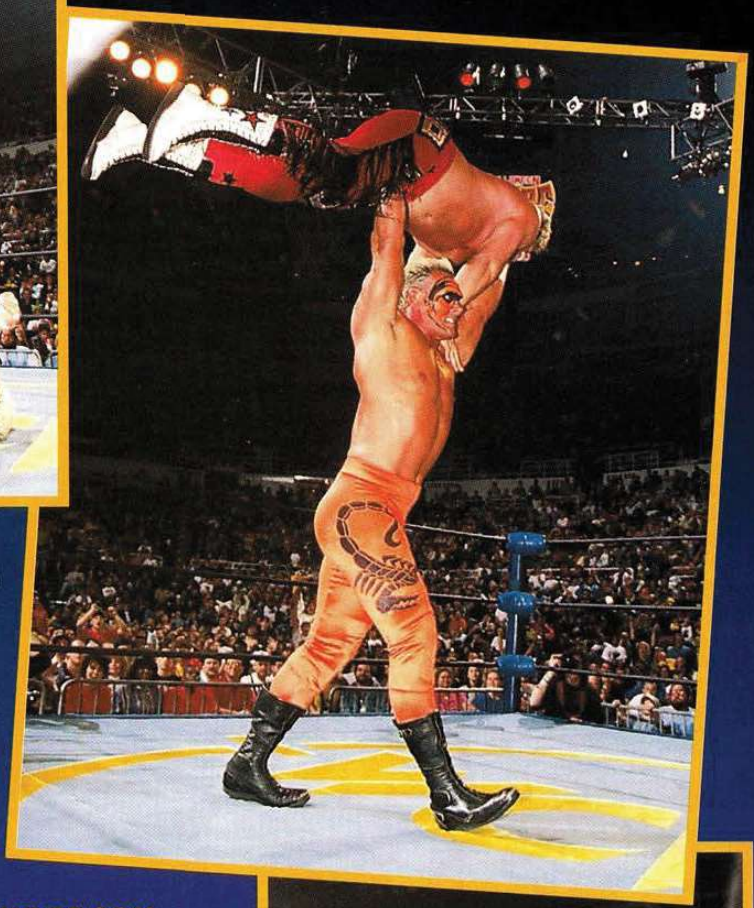




Before the card, it was announced that Flair had been attacked by Anderson and Pillman somewhere in the arena and had not been cleared to compete by WCW officials. This left the always brave Sting to face both Anderson and Pillman alone



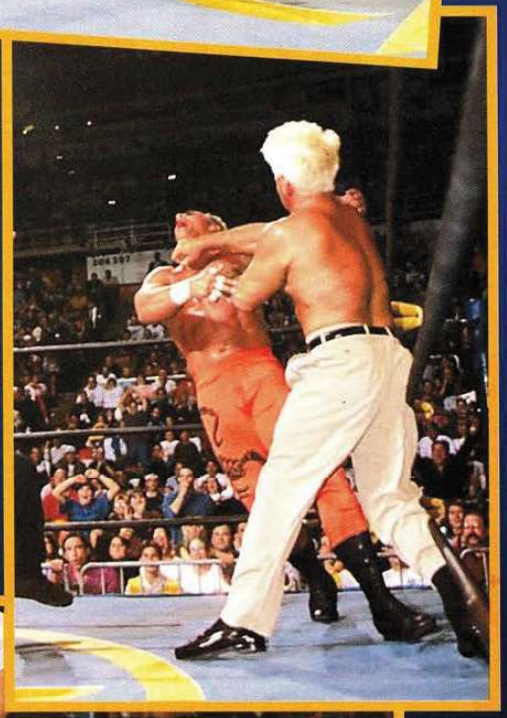


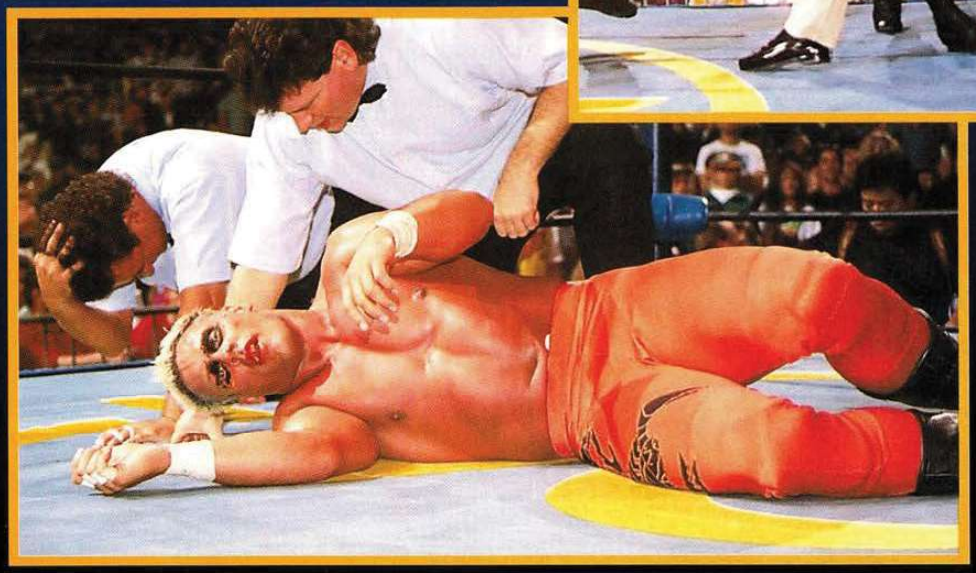


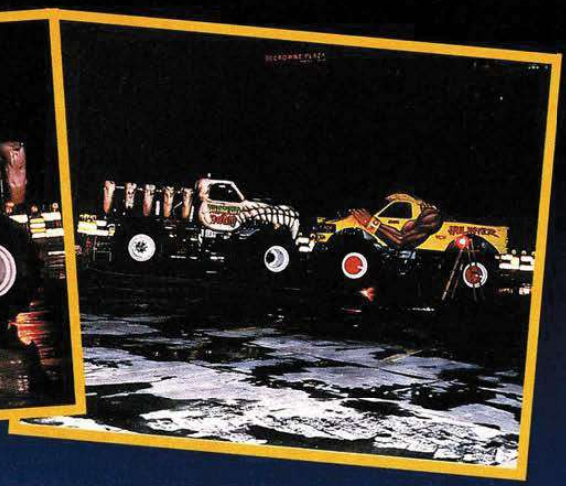
and amazingly, Sting battled both men and held his own for more than a few minutes. However, by the 10-minute mark, Sting was being badly battered by The Horsemen. As the crowd chanted "We want Flair!" the "Nature Boy" finally came to the ring with a bandaged forehead and street shoes and pants! For minutes, Flair extended his hand trying to encourage and tag Sting, but doing just that might've been the worst thing Sting has ever done! When Flair made the tag, he strutted into the ring, then turned and blasted Sting with a punch! The Flair-Sting team was a set-up by Flair all along so that Pillman, Anderson and Flair could eventually get free reign to batter Sting and that they did until two referees stopped the carnage. Sting is lusting for revenge, but it is obvious that The Horsemen are back...and more devious than ever!

ARN ANDERSON & BRIAN PILLMAN

STING & RIC FLAIR





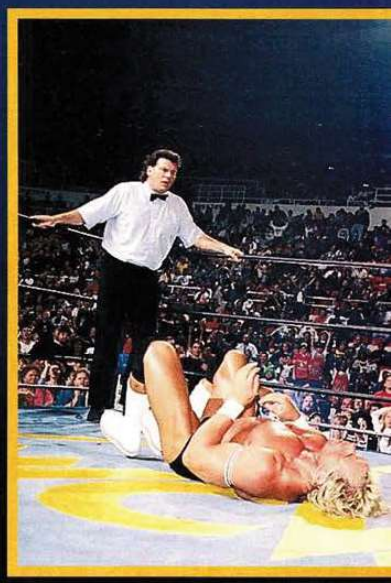


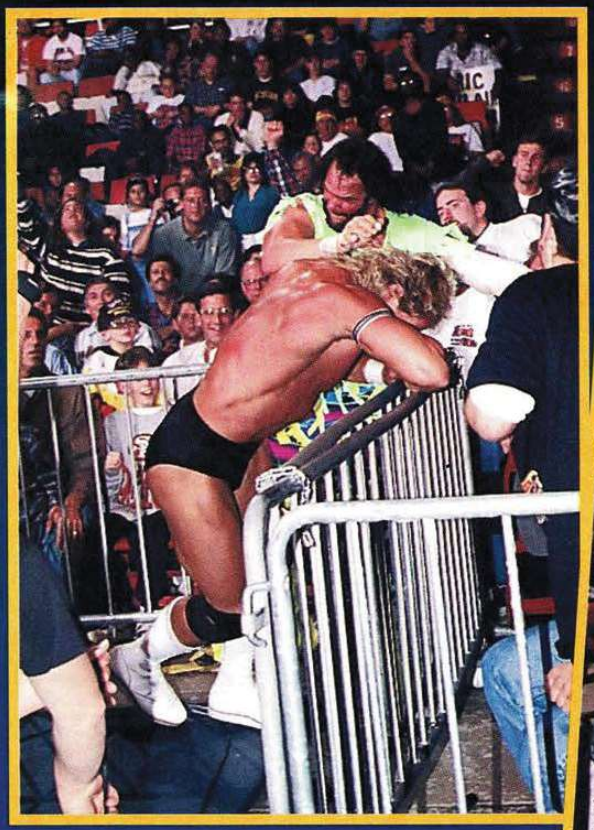
BATTLE OF THE MONSTER TRUCKS

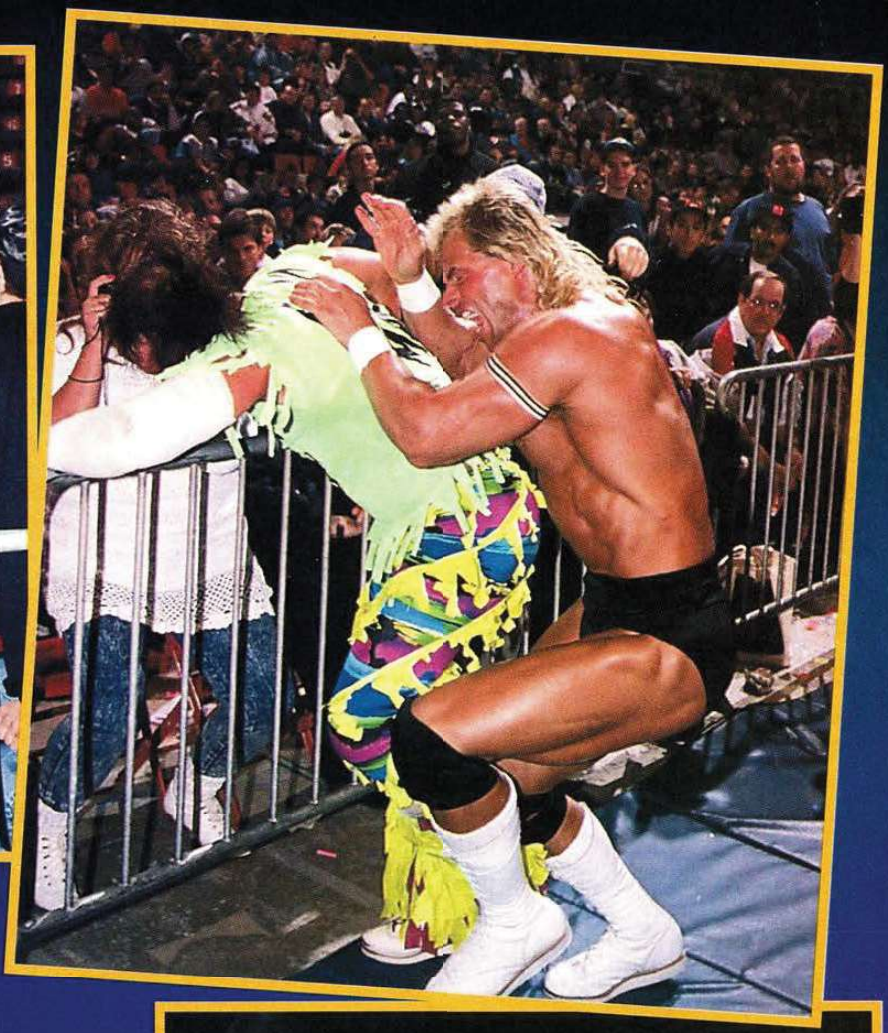
HULK HOGAN VS THE GIANT

This was the most shocking and incredible event in the history of monster trucks! Before this contest, the trucks were welded together at the front bumpers, with the object to push your opponent's truck outside the circle that was placed atop Cobo Hall. To make matters worse, there were two charges of dynamite that were lodged secretly inside the circle, making a dangerous event even more deadly! Hulk's incredible monster truck won the bout even though his truck was backed into one of the charges, setting off a large explosion! After the bout was over, the enraged Giant charged Hulk as he was standing near the ledge of the building. Eventually the two behemoths battled right onto the ledge and when The Hulkster broke The Giant's chokehold, The Giant lost his balance and fell off the building! What happened to The Giant? Did he fall into the river below...or worse? Again, another question to be answered later...

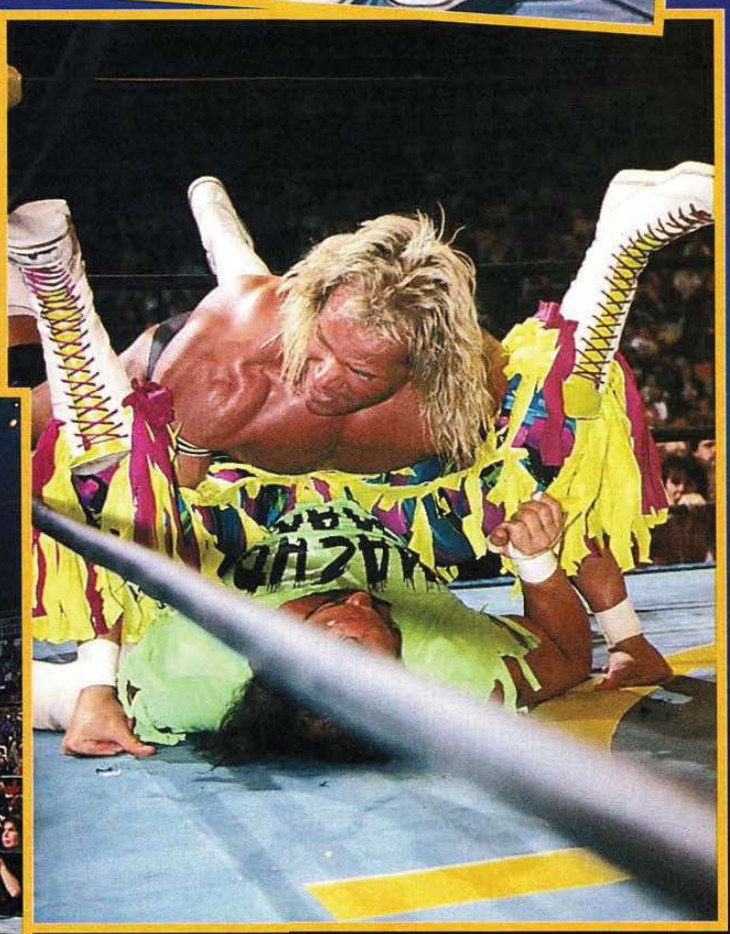
The record books will show that Savage defeated Luger by scoring with his flying elbow and pinning him. However, this, like most matches at Havoc, was shrouded in controversy. Why did Jimmy Hart come to ringside and argue with referee Nick Patrick? Was Luger a competitive friend of Savage's, or was he a secret ally of the Dungeon of Doom? This match led into the main event and what an incredible match it was!

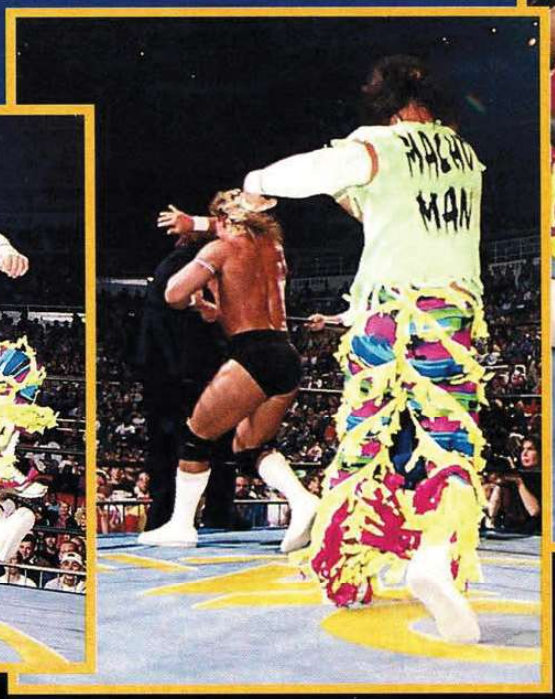


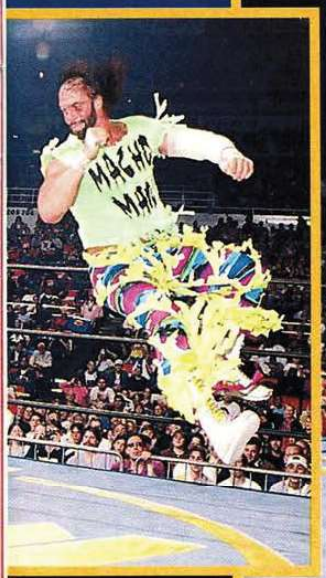


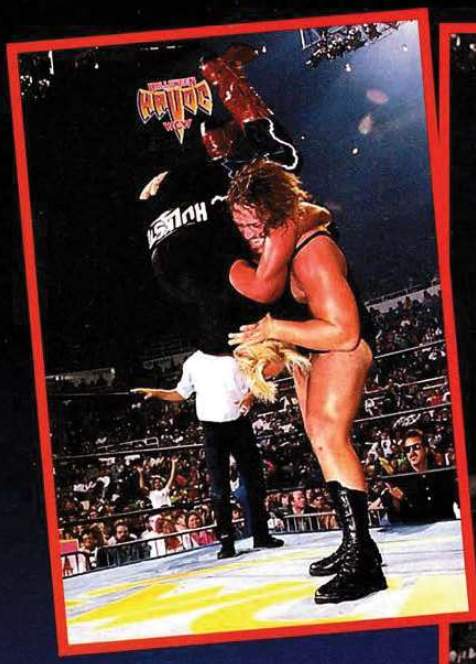


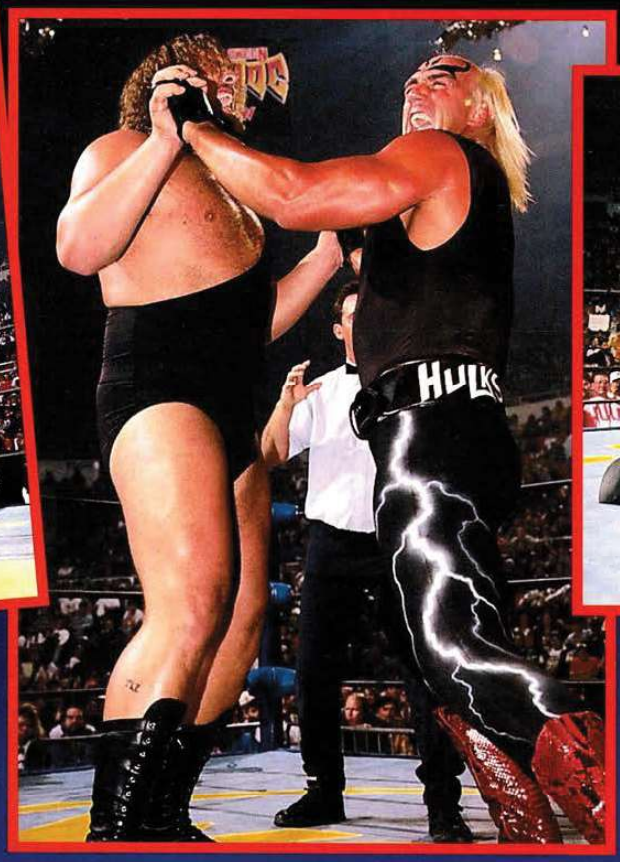
LEX LUGER VS RANDY SAVAGE

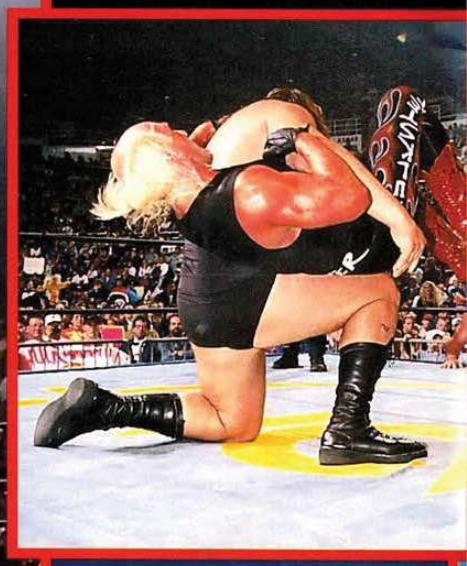








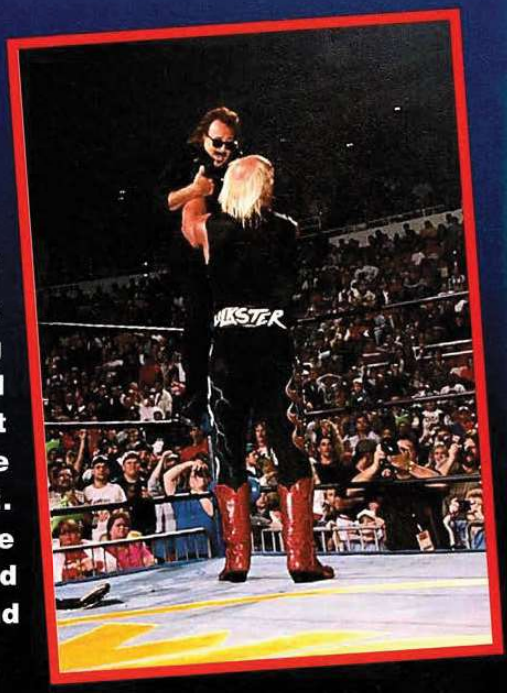


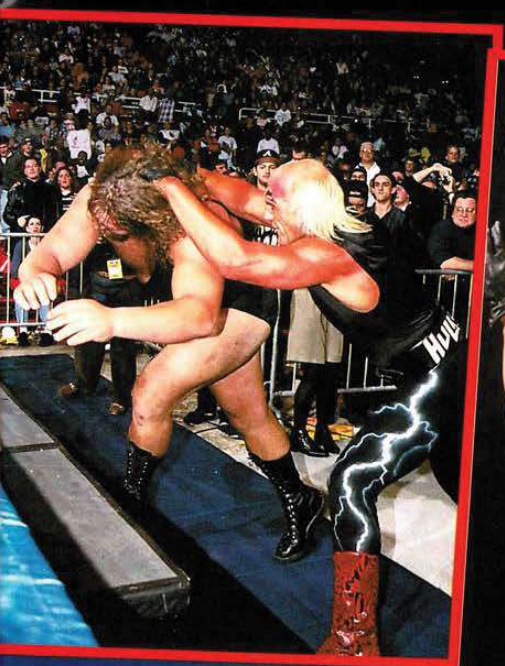


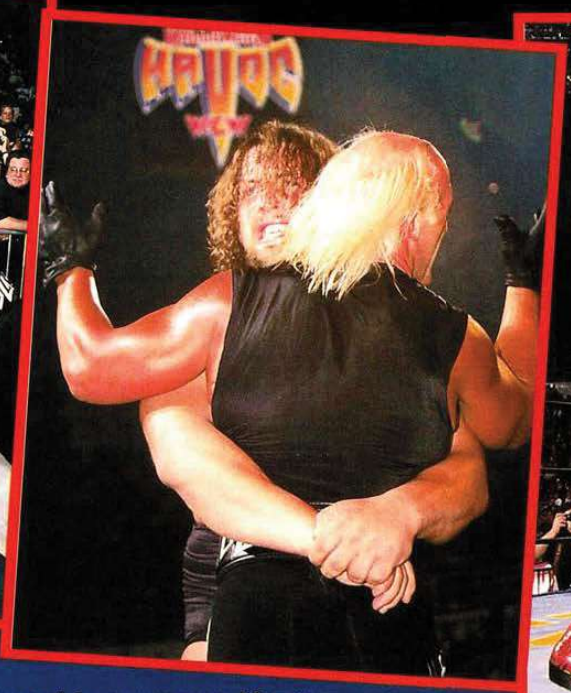
HULK HOGAN VS THE GIANT

WCW World Championship Match

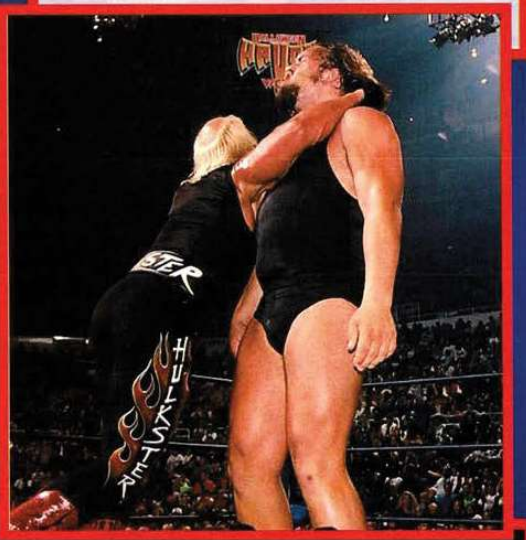
This was the bout everyone had longed to see, but the black-clad Hogan was in no mood to fight after what had happened on the Cobo Hall roof. As he began to explain what had occurred, The Giant and Sullivan made their way to the ring! When it was apparent that all The Giant wanted was to defeat Hogan, The Hulkster shook away his emotions! As Hogan ripped of his black doo-rag a huge gasp came up from the crowd as he revealed the same symbols on his forehead as the Taskmaster. Had Hulk finally succumbed and joined The Dungeon of Doom? The thought was dispelled inside 30 seconds as Hogan battled his huge adversary. The Giant proved to be a vicious and sinister competitor in his first WCW bout ever and nearly defeated Hogan at several key moments. However, with his millions of Hulkamaniacs cheering him on, Hogan battled back against the odds. In fact, he even managed to bodyslam the 7'4" Giant, an incredible feat! Moments later, Hogan scored a huge boot to The Giant's face, followed by a rake of his eyes and a legdrop. However, referee Randy Anderson fell to the mat as Hogan tried to make his pin. The fans all saw it...Jimmy Hart had hit the referee! As a confused Hogan rose to his feet, Hart jumped into the ring and helped Hogan revive Anderson. When Hogan turned around, Hart shoved Anderson again and blasted Hogan with his own championship belt! A stunned Hogan turned and pointed an accusing finger at Hart, a man he had many times called "my best friend in the world." The Giant attacked Hogan and Luger and Savage ran to the ring — but Luger attacked Savage! The Giant locked Hogan in a crushing bearhug and that wasn't even the worst of it. The massive Yeti stormed the ring and

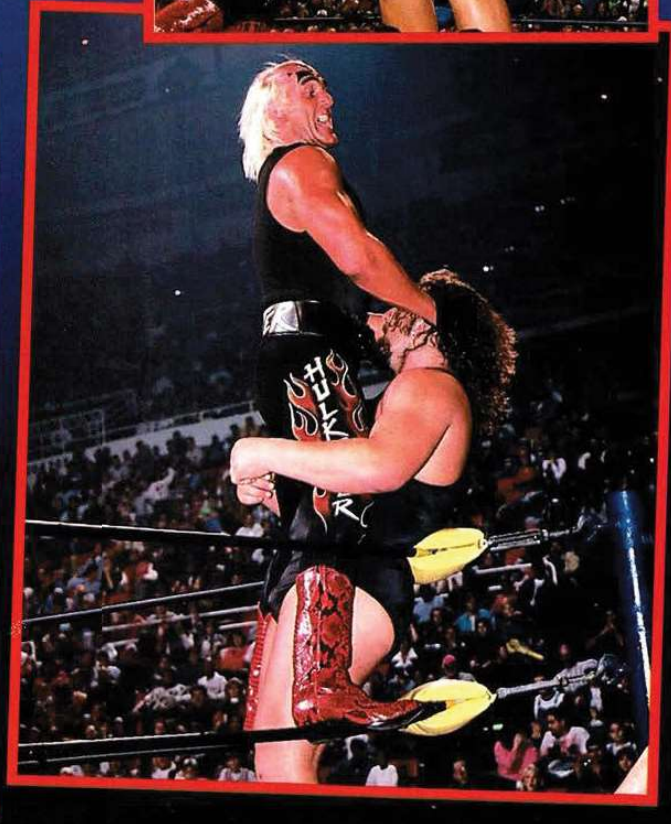






bearhugged Hogan from behind as The Giant continued to squeeze Hogan for all he was worth. Next, Luger put both Hogan and Savage in his torture rack backbreaker. Luger, The Giant and Yeti triple-teamed Savage, then pranced about the ring in a victory celebration as Hogan and Savage lay motionless on the canvas. The Giant won by disqualification because Hart had interfered and The Giant brazenly took the belt and left the arena with it! In one match, Luger was proven to be a rat, Hart was proven to be an even bigger rat, Savage proved to be a true Hulkamaniac and The Giant and Yeti proved they might well be the key that will end Hulkamania forever. Hogan and Savage will undoubtedly recover from their physical injuries...but the mental scars from this horrible incident might stay with them forever!





TAG Talk

In the USA or Canada, write to:
Tag Talk, WCW Magazine, One CNN Center, Box No.105366, Atlanta, GA30348-5366

In the UK or Ireland, write to:
Tag Talk, WCW Magazine, Cell Publishing, 28/30 Osnaburgh Street, London NW1 3ND

or send your comments to us via E-Mail.Our addresses are **WCWMAG@cix.compulink.co.uk or WCWMAG@aol.com**

NITRO

Nitro really is the best wrestling show on TV. The matches are great and there is never a dull moment. It's certainly a lot better than a certain other Monday night show.

Bruce D. Gray, Orlando, FL

I just became a WCW fan in February after seeing WCW pay-per-views. In this time I have come to two conclusions. That WCW ppvs are not just 15 minutes long and as boring as watching paint dry and, all the top stars and action are in WCW. Nitro is awesome and I can't wait for the next pay-per-view.

Nathan Shrader, N. Huntingdon, PA

REFERETTES?

Why can't girls be referees? If women can be wrestlers then surely they could become referees as well. Perhaps among your readers there are some female referees and they could let us know how we can achieve our ambition.

Amanda Gooch, Jackson, TN

I have asked WCW's top referees Randy Anderson and Nick Patrick about this and they know of no rules preventing ladies from being referees. However they feel that promoters would be worried about the possible injury risks that a woman could face if she had to try and split up two 300+pounders going at it in the ring. C.B.

Rumors

I am a great fan of WCW and in particularly the magazine. Recently I heard a rumor that WCW Magazine was closing down. Please say it ain't so. The magazine is an important part of WCW.

David Whitley, Washington, NC

I heard those rumors as well and they came as quite a surprise. You can rest easy, this magazine is not closing down and I thank you for your kind words. C.B.

Flair's theme

I am on the cheerleading squad for the Marion County High School Warriors. We are going into competition and wonder where we can find Ric Flair's entrance music for our routine.

Jamie Price, Jasper, TN

It is called 'Thus spake zarathusa' and comes from the soundtrack of ***2001: A Space Odyssey.*** C.B.

UK request

Thank you for making the WCW action figures available for all your fans in the UK. Now I am asking (again) if the videos of the pay-per-views event will once again be available in the UK. There are a lot of die-hard WCW fans in this country and we have been starved of WCW video action since Fall Brawl 1993. Can you just update us on the situation?

David Platt, Croydon, ENG

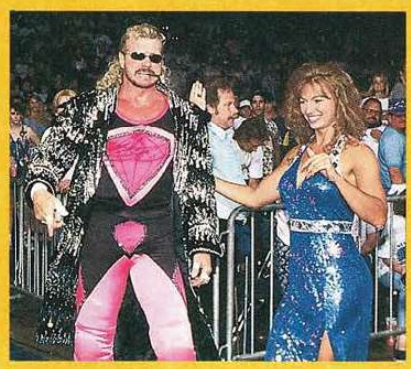
As I understand the situation, your long wait could be coming to an end. Negotiations are underway to return WCW on video to the UK and of course as soon as the details are available we will bring them to you in this magazine. Thanks for the support. C.B.

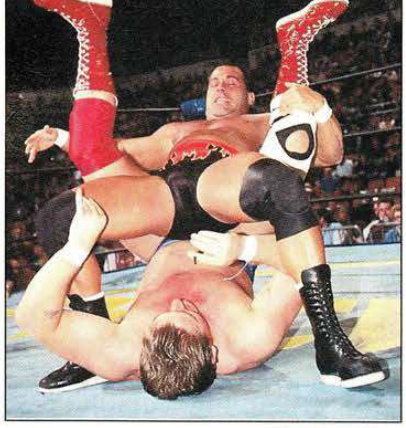
Ban DDP

Why doesn't WCW take action against DDP. He should be fined for his actions. He represents nothing and he treats his opponents like scum. He has no respect for anyone and is obsessed with himself. I'm glad Johnny now has the TV belt. He really is a champion to be proud of.

D. Carpenter, Roan Mountain, TN

Well you've heard the saying 'what goes around, comes around.' C.B.





Down with REGAL

I don't like the way that Lord Steven Regal bad mouthed the Orlando Magic and Disney in issue 9. Mickey Mouse could beat him up and Disney is a fun place. Regal is just boring and doesn't understand how to enjoy himself. To teach Regal some humility he should have to wrestle Florida's favorite son Dean Malenko every week.

M Lightner, Orlando, FL

Mr Lightner, your MIckey Mouse ears have obviously stemmed the flow of oxygen to your brain. If your idea of fun is queuing for hours among peasants then you are right, Disney is a fun place. For refined gentlemen like myself and the good Earl, we prefer a leisurely game of croquet or polo for our entertainment. As for the Orlando Magic...go Rockets, enough said.
Lord Steven Regal

SWITCHING CHANNELS

Congratulations WCW. For ten years I was fan of another organization. However in the past couple of years they have become so ridiculous that I almost turned off from the sport for good. Now I never miss WCW. All my familiar favorites are here and WCW is truly number one. Because of your dedication to the sport I am now a dedicated fan. Thank you WCW.

Alison Lotocki, Jackson Hts, NY

Saturday night

I know I'm not the first person to write in to praise Nitro, but everyone should remember there is more to WCW than just one show. The Saturday Night show paved the way for all the rest and is still the greatest. No other organization gives you a two hour wrestling feast every Saturday evening that features the greatest wrestlers in the sport.

Brandon Daly, Rochester, NY

The 1995 READER AWARDS

Once again it's time for you the WCW Magazine readers to reward the stars who have provided you with the most enjoyment throughout 1995.

This year we have five categories for you to vote in and one lucky entrant will receive a lifetime subscription to WCW Magazine, $200 worth of WCW merchandise chosen from the catalog and a signed photo from their favorite WCW superstar.

There are three ways to place your votes: Mail; E-Mail; and on the WCW Hotline number.

The coupon below (or a copy of it if you don't want to cut up the magazine) should be sent to:

USA & CANADA
WCW MAGAZINE AWARDS 1995
Box No. 105366
One CNN Center
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NW1 3ND

To register your vote via E-Mail, send your picks to:
WCWMAG@aol.com
or
WCWMAG@cix.compulink.co.uk

Finally, you can vote by dialing **1-900-909-9900** in the U.S. calls cost $1.49 per minute.
1-900-451-5344 in Canada calls cost $1.99 per minute.
Leave you vote on **OPTION 4** and remember callers under the age of 18 must obtain parental permission before calling.

The categories this year are as follows and just for fun we have also included our editorial picks as well:

WRESTLER OF THE YEAR
Every wrestler competing in WCW is eligible in this category. So who has impressed you the most this year. Hulk Hogan, Sting, Ric Flair, Arn Anderson, Johnny B. Badd are just a few of the names that spring to our minds.

WCW MAGAZINE SELECTION
Colin Bowman - **Johnny B. Badd**
Bob Smith - **Sting**
Ross Forman - **Hulk Hogan**

TAG TEAM OF THE YEAR
It was a great year for tag team wrestling in WCW with more great teams than ever. Last year's award winners The Nasty Boys were knocked from their number one spot by Harlem Heat, but there are a host of other contenders. The Stud Stable, The Blue Bloods and The American Males amongst the most prominent.

WCW MAGAZINE SELECTION
Colin Bowman - **Harlem Heat**
Bob Smith - **Harlem Heat**
Ross Forman - **Harlem Heat**

BEST NEWCOMER TO WCW
We worded this award carefully. It does not just apply to wrestlers who made their debuts in 1995. Any wrestler who had their first WCW bout in 1995 is eligible. That means Sabu, Eddy Guerrero, Chris Benoit and Dean Malenko but maybe not so obvious are Randy Savage, Lex Luger and Sgt. Craig Pittman.

WCW MAGAZINE SELECTION
Colin Bowman - **Eddy Guerrero**
Bob Smith - **The Giant**
Ross Forman - **The Giant**

MATCH OF THE YEAR
Good luck with this one...it took us hours just to come up with the three below, the choice this year was too great. Under consideration were: Flair vs Savage at The Great American Bash; The Triangle Match from Bash at the Beach; Flair vs Anderson at Fall Brawl; Badd vs Page at Halloween Havoc. The list is endless and of course its your vote that counts.

WCW MAGAZINE SELECTION
Colin Bowman - **Blue Bloods vs Benoit & Malenko**, WCW Main Event, Oct '95
Bob Smith - **Hogan vs The Giant**, Halloween Havoc
Ross Forman - **Johnny B. Badd vs Flyin' Brian**, Fall Brawl

ANNOUNCER OF THE YEAR
When you have reached the top of your profession the temptation must arise to slacken off. Not in the WCW announcing booth. This year WCW's announcers have seen the action reach dizzier heights than ever and they kept right on top of it. Tony Schiavone, Eric Bischoff, Chris Cruise, Mean Gene Okerlund, Dusty Rhodes, Larry Zbyszko have been joined this year by Steve McMichael and Mike Tenay making sure you are informed of all the action inside and outside the ring. Did we forget someone? Silly us, of course last years winner the incomparable Bobby "The Brain" Heenan who has kept us all "entertained" throughout 1995.

WCW MAGAZINE SELECTION
Colin Bowman - **Tony Schiavone**
Bob Smith - **Tony Schiavone**
Ross Forman - **Bobby Heenan**

My selections for the 1995 Reader Awards are:

Wrestler of the Year _____

Tag Team of the Year _____

Best Newcomer _____

Match of the Year _____

Announcer of the Year _____

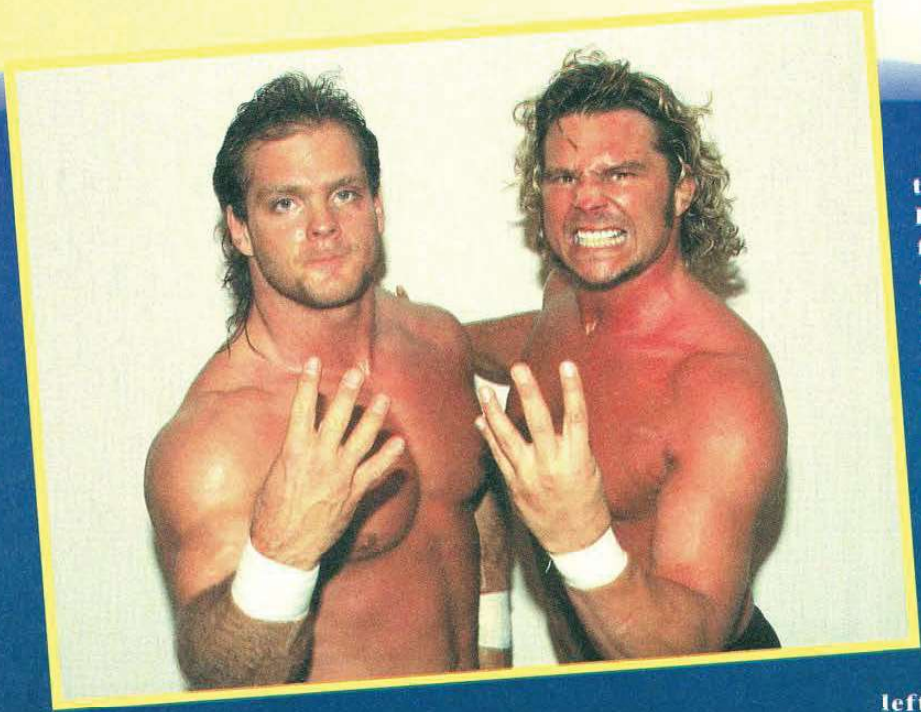
Name _____
Address _____
City _____
County/State _____
Post code/Zip Code _____

The closing date for entries is February 1, 1996

RINGTHEBELL on Archive.org

BENOIT &

THE HORSEMEN OF THE FUTURE

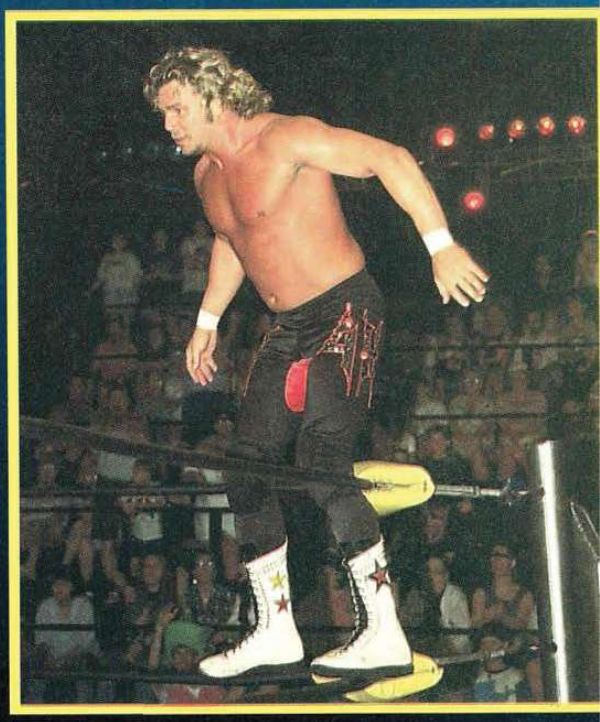


You may not know it, but the two newest members of the legendary WCW rulebreaking team known as The Four Horsemen, Flyin' Brian and "Canadian Crippler" Chris Benoit, go back a long way together — and their knowledge of each other's moves and styles makes them instant contenders for the WCW World Tag Team Championship!

When Ric Flair brazenly attacked Sting, the very man he was supposed to team with, at Halloween Havoc, the news began as soon as the "Nature Boy's" fist struck Sting's jaw: The Four Horsemen were back! This time, the anchors of Flair and WCW's most respected veteran, Arn Anderson, were joined by Flyin' Brian in The Horsemen. The next night on WCW Monday Nitro on TNT, Flair joined his cronies in the ring and made an ominous statement. "We're just one man short...now," he said, flashing his Cheshire Cat grin. It wasn't long before The Horsemen made the announcement they had longed to make: The name of the newest member of their elite fighting force. Who would it be? Lex Luger? Former Horseman Paul Roma? Fans talked among themselves at arenas all over the country, but they just could not guess who the newest Horsemen would be. It came as a shock when the news came down. "Canadian Crippler" Chris Benoit, one of the most accomplished wrestlers in international competition and a relative WCW newcomer, had been tabbed to fill the most coveted position in WCW. That of the fourth Horseman.

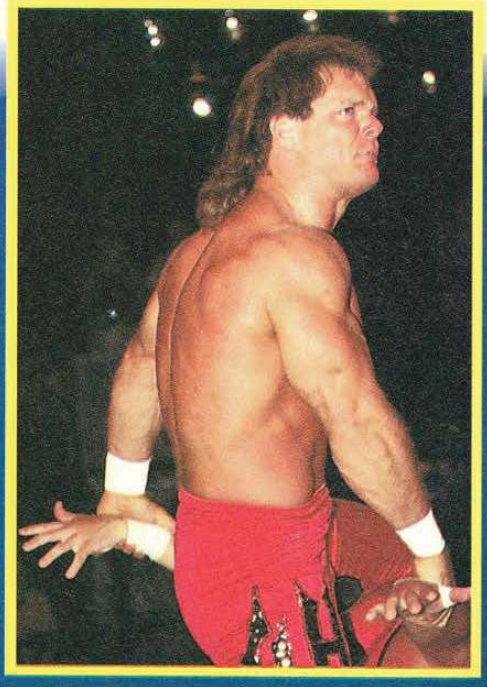
WCW fans gasped when it was announced and few could fathom just why The Horsemen made that particular pick. However, serious wrestling fans around the country applauded the choice, because they knew something that not everyone knows: Pillman and Benoit go back together a long, long way. As close as brothers, these men are former tag team champions of the now-defunct Calgary Stampede wrestling federation in Canada, but their fates took them in separate paths. Pillman left Calgary for WCW, while Benoit tested himself in Japan, Germany and other federations all around the globe.

"We're back together, and that's how it's gonna stay!" said the suddenly brash Flyin' Brian after he and Benoit scored a shockingly one-sided victory on a WCW television



PILLMAN

ARE PARTNERS FROM THE PAST!



program. "When I made the suggestion to go out and get The Crippler, Flair and Anderson knew I had found just the right guy for The Horsemen. This man is one of the best wrestlers in the world and with me by his side, we're gonna be unbeatable. Hey, that's a given — we're Horsemen, aren't we?"

The sudden pairing of Pillman and Benoit has shocked many fans, some of whom were convinced that Pillman was going to re-form The Hollywood Blonds, a team that went all the way to the WCW World Tag Team Championship. Pillman admits he planted the seeds for a reformation in everyone's minds so that he could do the "ultimate swerve" on everyone.

"Sure, I let WCW Magazine get their hands on photos of me together with Steve Austin," says Brian with a laugh. "Big deal! So I talked to the guy on a cruise ship! I just knew that idiot Colin Bowman would take a simple photo and blow it up into a story about re-forming the team. All that time, I had been in contact with Benoit and I just bided my time until the time was right. When they made me a Horseman, well, the time was perfect! Chris and I will make everyone forget everything else I've ever done and forge all the way to greatness and glory, just as all The Horsemen before us have done."

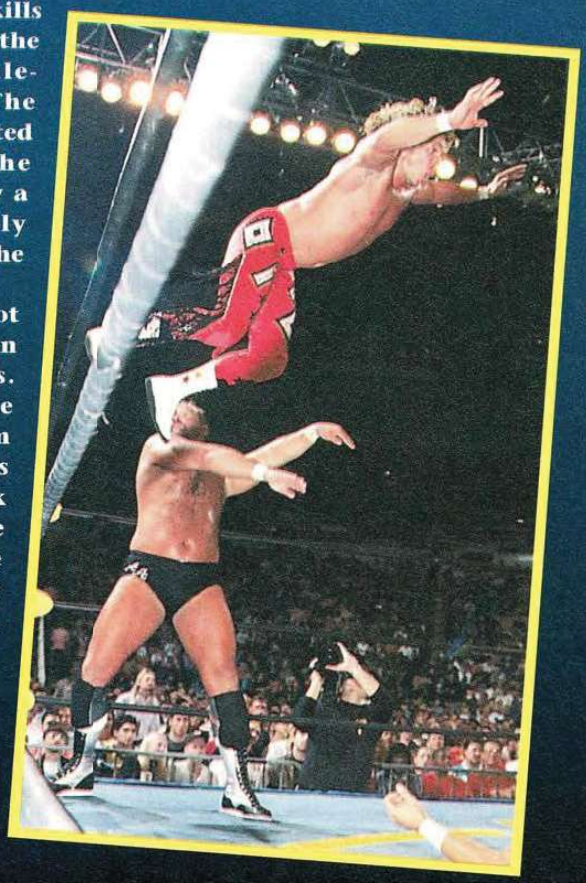
From viewing Pillman and Benoit's early matches, they seem like they've been teaming for years and in fact, they really have. Both lightning-quick, Benoit's mastery of suplexes and slams compliments Pillman's aerial and scientific skills perfectly. Add to that the special blend of rule-breaking that only The Horsemen have perfected and you've got the picture. This is already a great team that's only going to get better as the weeks pass.

Granted, there is a lot of tag team competition in WCW these days. Think of it: The Champions are Harlem Heat. Their contenders are Bunkhouse Buck and Dick Slater, The Super Assassins, The Blue Bloods, The Nasty Boys, The American Males, any two members of The Dungeon Of Doom, The State Patrol, The Barrio Brothers, Men at Work...the list goes on and on.

However, there's something about Pillman and Benoit that makes them stand out. It's that blend of athletic ability and canny rulebending that makes them a force that every team on the list will have to deal with and fear greatly.

"I came to WCW to be where the big boys play," said Benoit. "Now I am a member of The Four Horseman. I have my good friend, Brian, as my tag team partner. I have two legends, Flair and Anderson, as my close associates. Do you think that anything is going to deny this symbol of excellence?"

Benoit held up four fingers. The Four Horsemen are back, with two great new members and no title in WCW is going to be safe from them!



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BRAIN REACTION

Spot the real broadcast-journalist

Sushi is my favorite food

KOHN-nee-chee-wah, humanoids... this is Heenan-sahn, your favorite broadcast-journalist. This is a very special column as I dedicate it to my comrades from the Far East, lead by Sonny-sahn. And so, I will write part of this column in Japanese.

Starrcade is upon us and not a minute too soon...things are happening here in WCW faster than a Toyota rolling off the assembly line.

I received a call from Washington D.C., in late-November. It came from the President's office and although she was busy, Hillary had a message: Sgt. Craig "Pitbull" Pittman is being promoted to Lieutenant. This news shouldn't come as a surprise, mind you. "Pitbull" is, after all, an ally of Colin Powell.

Chuck Tache, WCW's trainer, is nothing more than a glorified nurse. Wanna hear some of his recent treatment recommendations? Here goes...for Hulk Hogan's neck, a band-aid; for Randy Savage's busted arm, a band-aid; for Mean Gene Okerlund's receding hairline, a band-aid. I'd hate to hear what he offers for a paper-cut.

SAHN-pah-tsoo shtek koo-dah-sah-ee.

I must relate an incident that occurred backstage at Halloween Havoc in Detroit, MI. Kurasawa approached WCW's travel agent, Kelly, for some information. He was his normal gracious self, but wanted some assistance since his knowledge of the language — of English, that is — is quite limited. Anyway, he must have requested a "TAAAAAAAXI" 15 times during the 10 minute conversation; however, she still wasn't sure exactly what he wanted. Luckily, though, I walked by and realized he simply wanted a taxi — not the trip to Texas she was in the process of booking.

Dusty Rhodes often wears a Florida Gators' t-shirt; however, it you don't see him, you certainly can smell him... from about two miles away.

Want proof that Disco Fever is sweeping the nation? Well, "Jim From Milwaukee" spent about 70 minutes on the phone, on the 900-number, talking to Disco Inferno at Halloween Havoc.

oh-TEH-ah-rah-ee.

Broadcaster Mike Tenay is often called "Scoop" for his thorough reports each and every Monday and Thursday on the WCW Hotline (1-900-909-9900); however, I prefer calling him "Skunk." Now that I've said that, I have a scoop for you humanoids...Mike Tenay, all 163 pounds of Mike Tenay, is considering a career change, into the ranks of the active wrestler. Albeit in the midget division.

More Mike Tenay...he was seen at Halloween Havoc with a cut to the bridge of his nose. You might wonder how he cut himself, and I've got that scoop too...it happened while reading a newspaper.

Just a little more Mike Tenay...fellow WCW Hotline journalist — and I use that term journalist loosely — Mark Madden was so upset with Gene Okerlund's last column profiling Tenay that Madden actually threatened to take off his shirt in public if Gene did not grant him the same honor.

Did you see that goodie-two-shoes Nick Lambros on Monday Nitro in early-November? If I wasn't a broadcast-journalist I would have smacked that smirk off his face.

Can anyone play billiards? We'll use Teddy Long's cranium as the cue-ball.

Koo-ROO-mah gah, koh-shoh shteh shee-mah-ee-mahsh-tah.

V.K. Wallstreet offered to help with my taxes this year. He said I will get a refund...because he knows the IRS.

I've said it before and I'll say it again, two pages isn't enough for my column. Maybe 14 or 15 pages would do.

Why in the world did WCW Magazine editor Colin Bowman dedicate two full pages in the last issue to Eric Bischoff. Heck, if you listen to Bischoff on Nitro you can tell that he doesn't know the difference between a wrestling ring and a bowling pin. What's next, a two-page feature on Pepe, the flea-infested mutt that belongs to McNuggets?

Why don't the Blue Bloods ever get a title shot? His Lordship, Steven Regal, and the good Earl, Robert Eaton, are class personified. Obviously they just don't kiss the right...

I went to shake hands with Dean Malenko the other day and he offered a counter-move. I don't understand.

Sabu is so crazy he makes "Hacksaw" Jim Duggan look like a rocket-scientist. The Sheik would be a useful guest at a bar-b-que though.

Right before Thanksgiving, I went to El Paso, TX, at my expense, to learn a little about Eddy Guerrero. Being the broadcast-journalist that I am, you sometimes have to do things like this. Anyway, I discovered the truth about this Mexican jumping bean who just so

happens to be a direct descendent of the late Don Quixote. Eddy was NOT a standout student-athlete at Texas-El Paso University, otherwise known as UTEP, home of the Miners. No, not at all. Instead, Eddy was a former chilli pepper picker — until he was fired. It's true, Eddy Guerrero was fired for eating too much of the profits. Obviously that explains the kick in his step.

Kimberly ought to be a blonde, because she's as dumb as a rock.

Whhhoooooooooa! Ric, you're the best!

Casey Kasem reports that "Mr. Wonderful" Paul Orndorff's new ring-entrance music is a Top 20 hit worldwide.

EDITOR'S NOTE: In an effort to make sure Bobby "The Brain" Heenan wasn't offending anyone with his Japanese "words of wisdom," WCW Magazine hired a Japanese professor from Indiana University to translate them. The esteemed professor called Heenan a "bumbling idiot." After all, some of Heenan's "words" included such sayings as 'I want a haircut,' 'Bathroom,' and 'My car has broken down. '

Dear Bobby,

Why isn't pro wrestling an Olympic sport?

Mike Woitalla, Petaluma, CA.

"That's a good question, California Kid, especially when you consider the fact the sissies who play soccer go for the gold every four years. Well, I have a scoop for you ...my good buddy George Steinbrenner and the rest of the guys on the U.S. Olympic Committee promised me it will be a medal-earning sport at the 1997 games. That's good enough for me."

Bobby,

You are really fickle. You gave Ric Flair a hard time for teaming with Sting. You should have had faith like the rest of his fans. Flair is 'The Man' and The Horsemen will rule 4ever.

T Johnstone, Fredericksburg, VA

"One word for you ... Whhoooooa!"

Dear Bobby,

You do a very bad job. You are rude and scheming. You have no insight. You had better get your act together or WCW will get rid of you.

J Lopp, Corydon, IN

"Hey Hoosier Hick, why don't you go back to your trailer-home with rented furniture and luke-warm beer. I do more for the betterment of WCW than anyone will ever know. How, you might wonder. By being myself, the best broadcast-journalist in the business. So can it, creep!

Brain,

You truly are the best. You tell it like it is, unlike Eric Bischoff who cries when one of his favorites gets hurt. He is so biased. Did you know what Lex's plans were when he came back to WCW and were you behind them?

M Widuta, South River, NJ

"Yes, of course I knew Lex' plans. He confides in me, like all of the wrestlers do. They know I can be trusted and I'm not a stool-pigeon, like Schiavone."

Bobby,

You are a crazy person and I would like to meet you one day.

Michelle Thompson, Corinth, MS

"Next."

Brain,

You always put down Randy Savage and Hulk Hogan but they are the best things in WCW. So just remember Hulkamania will live forever and Macho Madness will never die.

Josh Griego, Gallup, NM

"Josh, have you ever seen those toupees, er teepees owned by the Iroquois tribe down there in New Mexico? If so, you'd know about their famous saying, 'Speaks With Forked Tongue.' Well, listening to you it's apparent you are part Iroquois, part idiot."

Bobby,

Could you please pass a message to Sister Sherri.

"Je t'aime Sherri." Tell her I want to marry her.

Celian Varini, Issy les Moulineaux, France

"Sorry, Frog...Sherri is hitched with the Colonel."

Mr Brain,

For many years I have admired you and your thoughts on professional wrestling. Could you tell me how I could get involved in wrestling and how I can get an autographed photo of you.

W Jowden, New Bern, NC

"It's $200 for a photo...$300 for a signed photo. NO checks, just cash...in small, non-sequential bills."

Dear Weas...I mean Brain

I like Harlem Heat, but The Nasty Boys are my favorites. I also think Sherri is beautiful. If you have been on a date with her it must have been your first with a real women and not one that comes with inflation instructions.

Brandon Strasler, Columbia, SC

"Hey, Brandy, as someone who writes letters in crayons, you are in no position to say anything about me. So, sit down, shut up and be nice to your Barney doll!"

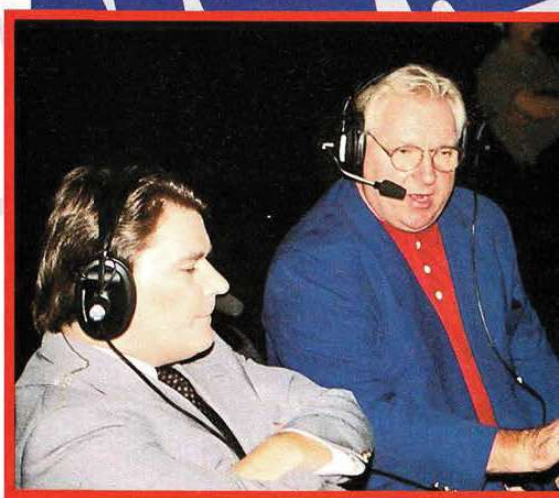
Bobby,

I am shocked. How can they give your position on WCW Saturday Night to that redneck Dusty Rhodes. Now we have no one who tells it how it is. Yes-Man Schiavone and Slobby Rhodes cannot compete with you. You are the greatest. Slap Rhodes out of your seat and return quickly.

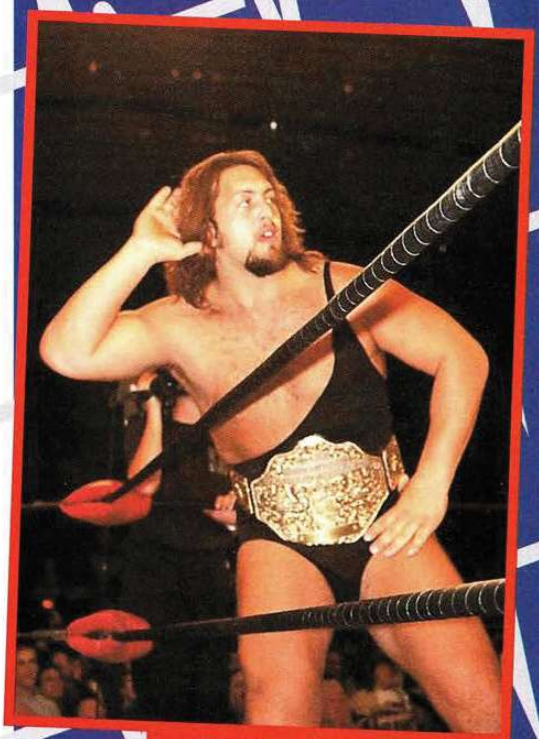
Marc Fioretti, Lancaster, NY

"Thanks mom...I mean man."

Sincerely yours,
The Brain



It's a strain having to work with Yes-Man Schiavone



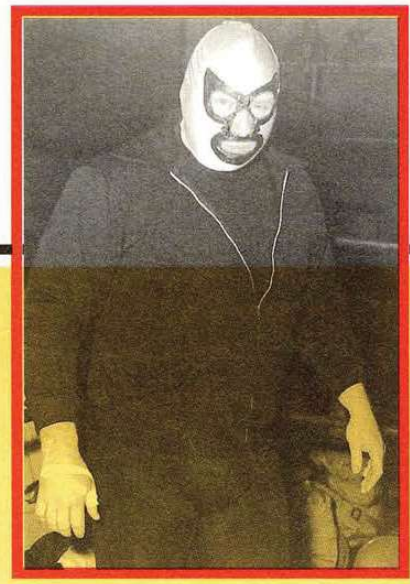
The "real" Champion

Bobby "The Brain" Heenan is the co-host of the WCW Main Event and WCW Saturday Night programs on Superstation TBS. He also serves as color commentator on WCW Clash and PPV broadcasts.

Editor's Note: The opinions expressed throughout this column are those of Bobby "The Brain" Heenan. The publishers of WCW magazine take no responsibility for the comments and apologize for any offense given.

LOOKING BACK

THE ASSASSIN



In the early '60s, a new phenomenon swept the wrestling world: Mat stars around the globe started wearing masks in record numbers. Why this trend? Why did top stars want to conceal their identities? It's probably because of the success of the man who no doubt ranks as the most successful cowled rulebreaker ever, The Assassin.

Of course, there were dozens of other masked stars, including Mexican legends Mil Mascaras and El Santo, brutal ring general The Sensational Intelligent Destroyer and former AWA champion Dr. X. However, few men in the history of the sport came close to capturing the aura of invincibility and fear that permeated the arena each time The Assassin stepped into the ring. Even the mention of his name struck fear into the hearts of fans and foes alike.

"That's pretty much the way I liked it," says The Assassin today, who for the past year has been an integral part of WCW's Power Plant training center, the most respected and successful camp of its kind in the world. "Nobody knew who I was. Nobody knew what I was capable of. However, there is and was much more to me than just a mask. I proved my worth each and every time I went to an arena."

The Assassin had many guises during his career. He was a championship-caliber singles star, winning dozens of regional titles around the United States and Canada. He formed a tag team called The Assassins, which became the NWA's best after just a few short months together in 1984. He also was a manager, most recently leading the duo of "Mr. Wonderful" Paul Orndorff and Paul Roma in 1994.

Fans hated The Assassin during his wrestling prime and for the most part it was with good reason. Many times and WCW officials have documented this, The Assassin would slip a piece of steel or hard plastic into the front of his mask and headbutt his opponent. This serious infraction of the rules would cause an illegal pinfall victory more times than most and called for many wrestling federations to consider banning this burly 280-pounder outright.

Ask him about his alleged mask-loading today and all you can see through his orange mask is a sneer.

However, to make it to the top in the wrestling world, you must have intelligence and talent, and The Assassin had both. He looks back upon his long career, which started in the 1950s in the New York area and continued into the '90s, with pride.

"I wrestled 14 different World champions," said Assassin and the history book proves him right.

"I competed against Lou Thesz, Bill Longson, Buddy Rogers, Pat O'Connor, Gene Kiniski, Dick Hutton, Jack Brisco, both Dory Funk Jr. and Terry Funk, Harley Race, Dusty Rhodes, Ric Flair, Tommy Rich and Whipper Watson. I can remember teaming with my brother at Madison Square Garden...there were so many great moments that I can't even count them all."

What stands out in many fans' minds is the sinister actions that The Assassin proved himself capable of time and time again. He got into a feud with popular "Boogie Woogie Man" Jimmy Valiant in 1984 and the matches between them got increasingly violent. During one memorable and callous moment, The Assassin called upon Assassin II to double-team Valiant in the ring. The Assassin pulled a pair of scissors from his trunks and proceeded to cut off Valiant's long, flowing beard.

Unlike many veterans, who insist the wrestling of their era was the best ever, The Assassin takes a more diplomatic (and wholly informed) stance on then versus now.

"I think today's athletes, particularly wrestlers, are bigger and stronger...more agile...they have a different style than in the '60s and '70s," said The Assassin. "The overall style of wrestling, particularly in WCW, has progressed through the years. The stars are more willing to make high-risk maneuvers. We had a few guys like Antonino Rocca, who took risks in the air. He's a man I wrestled many times. I think the top stars of my era could compete with today's top stars, but I also believe the stars of today are just better conditioned. The stars of yesterday did more wrestling and less pure brawling, though."

When asked to name his best opponents, Assassin doesn't flinch.

"Everyone these days talks about my feud with Dusty Rhodes and last year I proved to the world that it was one of the greatest feuds ever," he said. "Another guy I had great matches against was Dick Steinborn. We had a 60-minute draw. We followed it up with a 90-minute rematch and we still had no falls. The following week, the promoter started our match at 9:15pm and we battled until midnight. That's a 2:45 match, and you just don't see that anymore."

The Assassin wants the fans to know that he's still involved with WCW at the Power Plant (fans, call 1-404-351-4959 for more information about becoming a professional wrestler). We can't think of another star, either rulebreaker or fan favorite, who is more qualified to teach the art of the mat than the man who has devoted his life to wrestling: The incredible Assassin!

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Tues-Terry Taylor
Wed-Mark Madden
Thurs-"Wrestling Insiders" with Mike Tenay
Fri-Mark Madden
Sat-"Mean"Gene Okerlund

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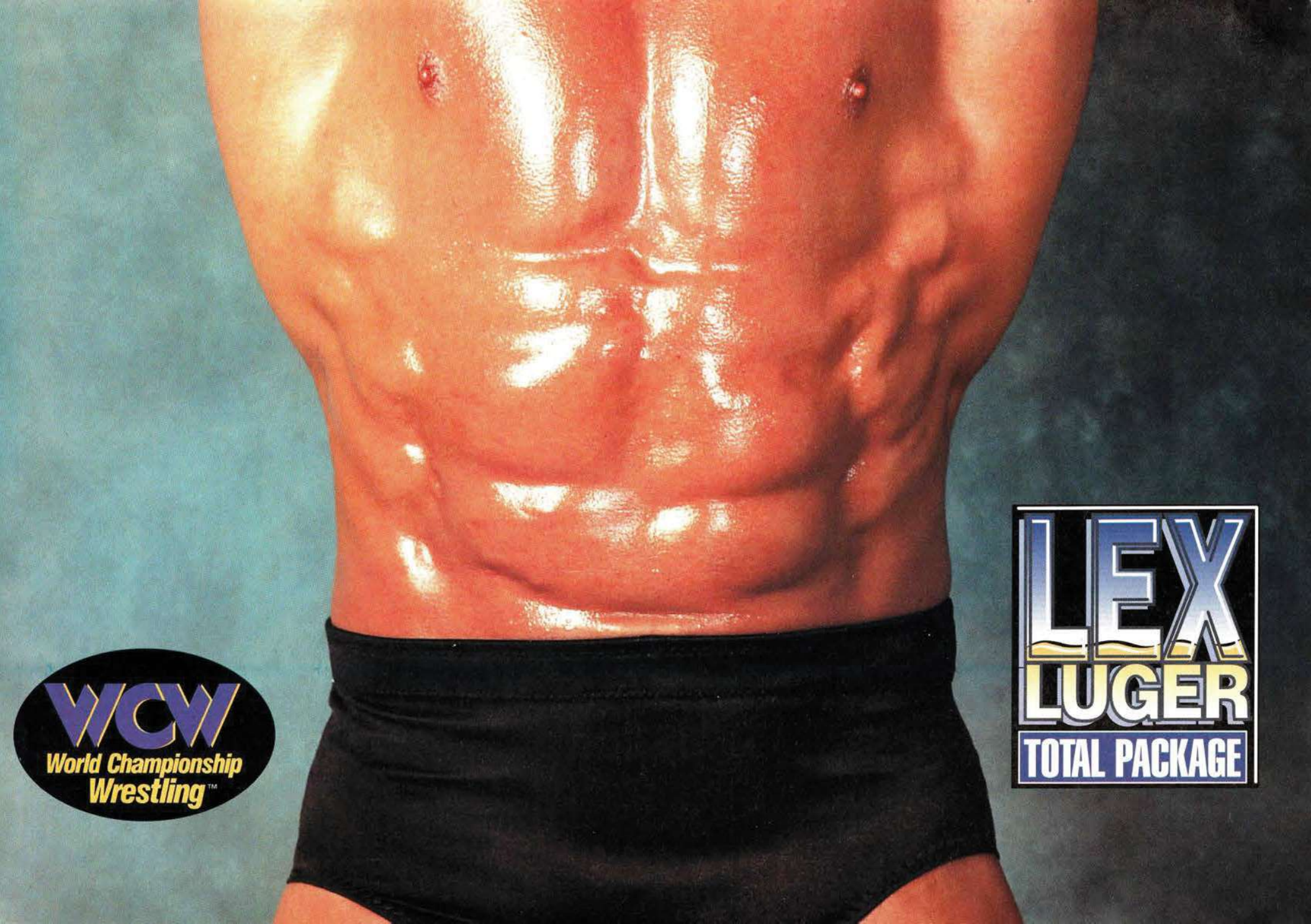
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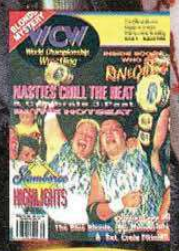
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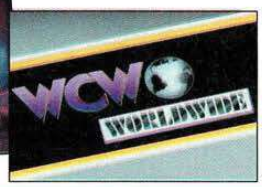

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Check with regional sports network in your area for specific dates & times

WCW PRO WRESTLING
ALBANY WSST, ALEXANDRIA KLAX, BIRMINGHAM/ANNISTON WNAL, CHARLESTON WCTP, CHARLESTON WCIV, CHARLOTTE WFVT, FLORENCE WGSE, CHICAGO WCIU, COLUMBUS WWHO, COLUMBUS TUPELO WCBI, DALLAS KDFI, EL PASO KJLF, FAYETTEVILLE WFAY, FT WAYNE WFFT, HARLINGEN-SPANISH CLEARANCE KGBT, HATTIESBURG/LAUREL WHLT, HUNTSVILLE/DEC/FLO WYLE, JACKSONVILLE WNFT, KINGMAN KMOH, MIAMI/FT LAUDERDALE WSVN, MILWAUKEE WVTV, PHOENIX KSAZ , PORTLAND KEBN, RALEIGH WYED, RALEIGH WNCN, ROANOKE/LYNCHBURG WSLS, SAVANNAH WTOC, SEATTLE/TACOMA KTZZ, SPOKANE KDQ, ST GEORGE KSGI, TAMPA/ST PETE/SAR WBSV, TAMPA WTTA, WEST PALM BEACH WAQ.

WCW MAIN EVENT
ALBANY WSST, BIRMINGHAM/TUSCALOOSA WDBB, CHARLOTTE WHKY, CLEVELAND/AKRON WAKC, GREENSBORO/W.S. WAAP, GREENVILLE/ ASHEVILLE WNEG, HUNTSVILLE/DEC/FLO WYLE, JACKSONVILLE WNFT, MANCHESTER WMCH, ORLANDO WRBW, PORTLAND KEBN, SAVANNAH WUBI, TAMPA/S PETE/SAR WBSV, TAMPA/ST PETE WTMV.

WCW IN CANADA
WCW WORLDWIDE
HALIFAX CJCH, LONDON CFPL, NORTH BAY CKNY, OTTAWA CJOH, PRINCE ALBERT CIPA, REGINA CKCK, SASKATCON CFQC, SAULT STE. MARIE CHBX, ST JOHN/MONCTON CKCW, SUDBURY CICI, SYDNEY/GL BAY CJCB, TIMMINS CITO, TORONTO CFTO, WHEATLEY CHWI, WINGHAM CKNX, WINNEPEG CKY, YORKTON CICC

WCW MAIN EVENT
PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE CHMI

LIVE EVENT CALENDAR

Check out our calendar below to find out when WCW will be coming to your area. Cities, arenas and dates are subject to change, so please check before you make your plans.

DECEMBER

27 Starrcade PPV, Municipal Auditorium Nashville, TN

JANUARY

3 TV Taping, Center Stage, Atlanta, GA

7 The Township Arena, Columbia, SC

8 TNT Nitro, N. Charleston Coliseum, Charleston, SC

10 TV Taping, Center Stage, Atlanta, GA

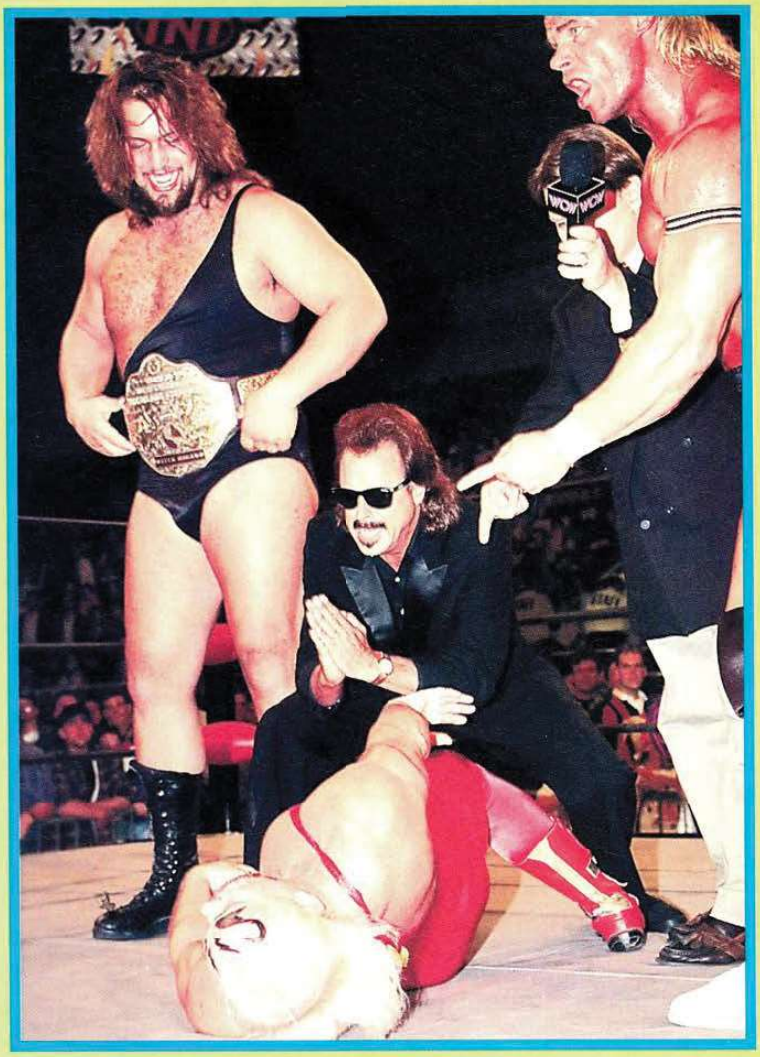
RINGTHEBELL on Archive.org

SRN RADIO NETWORK

Below is a list of the radio stations who are carrying SRN's coverage of WCW's PPVs, Clashes and weekly WCW Worldwide program: Hosted by Terry Taylor and John Ellis.

WZON AM 620 BANGOR, ME
WJOX AM 690 BIRMINGHAM, AL
KOKB AM 1580 BLACKWELL,OK
WVHF FM 92.7 CLARKSBURG, WV
WIQT AM 820 ELMIRA, NY
WBBL AM 1340 GRAND RAPIDS, MI
KFKQ FM 92.9 GREEN BAY,WI
WJBM AM 1480 JERSEYVILLE, IL
WKBH AM 1570 LA CROSSE, WI
WTRP AM 620 LA GRANGE, GA
KMTW AM 1340 LAS VEGAS, NV
WZLT FM 99.3 LEXINGTON, TN
WWZN AM 1440 MAITLAND, FL
WHBQ AM 560 MEMPHIS TN
WGLB FM 100.1 MILWAUKEE, WI
WNSP FM 105.5 MOBILE, AL
WYOR AM 560 NASHVILLE, TN
KEUN AM 1490 NEW ORLEANS, LA
KGME AM 1360 PHOENIX, AZ
WRDB AM 1400 REEDSBURG, WI
KKSC AM 1470 SIOUX CITY, IA
WWNS AM 1240 STATESBORO, GA
WSSC AM 1340 SUMPTER, SC
WHEN AM 620 SYRACUSE, NY
WTUP AM 1490 TUPELO,MS
KMZE FM 92.1 WOODWARD, OK

There are countless photos at Jimmy Hart's home in Florida and most of the wrestlers featured with "The Mouth of the South" have a championship strap. Hart's home truly is a Who's Who of wrestling talent. The roster includes Bret "Hit Man" Hart, King Kong Bundy, Greg "The Hammer" Valentine, "The Mountie" Jacques Rougeau, Jerry "The King" Lawler, The Hart Foundation, Money Inc., The Natural Disasters, The Nasty Boys and even The Glamour Girls.



Just a ma

Yes, Jimmy Hart has been the premiere pro wrestling manager of the past 15 years. He is, hands-down, a winner — and so are his proteges.

"My goal today is the same as it was when I first started in this sport: to manage champions," Hart said from behind his ever-familiar sunglasses.

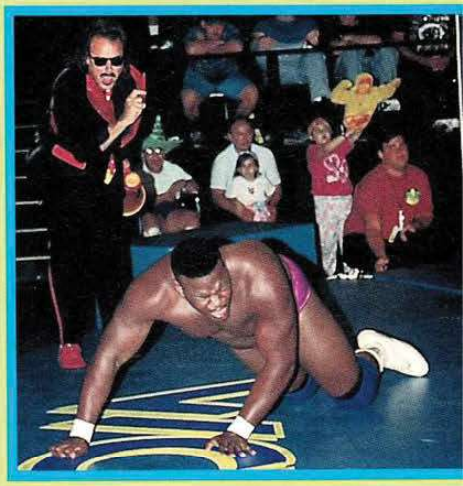
The largest photo of the bunch, centered and larger than the rest, features the greatest World Heavyweight Champion pro wrestling has seen from any organization. It is, of course, the immortal Hulk Hogan. He and Hart are pictured side-by-side after Hogan defeated Ric Flair to capture the WCW World title in 1994.

Those were the happy times for Hogan and Hart.

Today, they are bitter rivals, much like the Chicago Bears and Green Bay Packers.

"I didn't turn my back on Hulk, no matter what people say," insists Hart. "Wanna know what really happened that fateful night at Halloween Havoc in Detroit? Let me tell you..."

"The Hulkster slams The Giant and wants me to get a close-up look at the feat, so he says, 'Jimmy, jump up on the ring-apron.' As I did that, the stupid referee backed into Hulk's belt that I was holding and knocked himself out. Since I didn't want to get caught with my hand in the cookie jar, I jumped down off the apron. Hulk then looked at me and said, 'What happened to the referee?' The Hulkster then, in pure stupidity since he certainly knows the rules, called me into the ring, despite the



fact that, if caught, he would have lost the match by disqualification. Hulk ordered me to pick up the referee, while he tried to pick up The Giant, but, since The Giant weighs,

oh, 500 pounds, he couldn't do it, so he called me to help him. I gently laid the referee down, grabbed the belt and then, purely accidently, tripped over the referee's foot with the belt and I fell into the back of Hulk's head. Hulk, naturally, thought I did it deliberately. He then attacked me until, thank heavens, The Giant saved me."

"I then called for Randy Savage to help us. I told Randy to hold The Giant, but, because of how weak Randy is, The Giant moved and I accidently hit Randy. It really was a night of horrors for me."

Hart's tale sounded too far-fetched for even the best fiction writer, but he stood by it.

"A lot of people say, 'If Jimmy Hart's lips are moving he's lying.' No sir...I'm telling the complete truth," Hart said. "I didn't mean to hit the referee, it just happened. The way I figured things after that night, if this is how Hulk is going to be after five long years together, then so be it."

Enter Kevin Sullivan. Make that, re-enter Kevin Sullivan. You see, in the late-1970s, in Memphis, Sullivan was a tag team champion for Jimmy Hart & The First Family of Professional Wrestling. The two are back together, once again causing chaos.

"We are partners, out to destroy Hulkamania," Hart said.

Along with, among others, Lex Luger and The Giant.

"Lex has been underrated his whole career," Hart said. "He's got the body, the looks and the youth to carry the torch of a champion. Plus, the fans love him. If you recall, Lex is not the one who started this feud with 'Macho Man' Randy Savage; it was, rather, Randy Savage. But, I guarantee you that Lex Luger will finish it; he will stop Mr. Slim-Jim once and for all."

"As for The Giant, well, let's just put it this way...I weigh 159-pounds soaking wet, Hulk Hogan weighs 280-pounds and was trying to choke the life out of me (at Halloween Havoc) after our little misunderstanding. Who saved my life? You got it, The Giant. I think I owe The Giant a big favor for that and that will be anything he wants."

So, Jimmy, what about "Macho Man" Randy Savage and the Renegade?

"The way I see things, it's simple...a matter of trust. Can the Hulkster trust the 'Macho Man'? I don't think so, especially when you consider all of the things that have gone down between the two of them over the years. Hulk has a saying he uses quite often, 'We need to bring our enemies close to us.' Well, Randy Savage is Hulk's enemy. And, before it's all over, Randy Savage will be the one to put the bullet in Hogan — not Jimmy Hart."

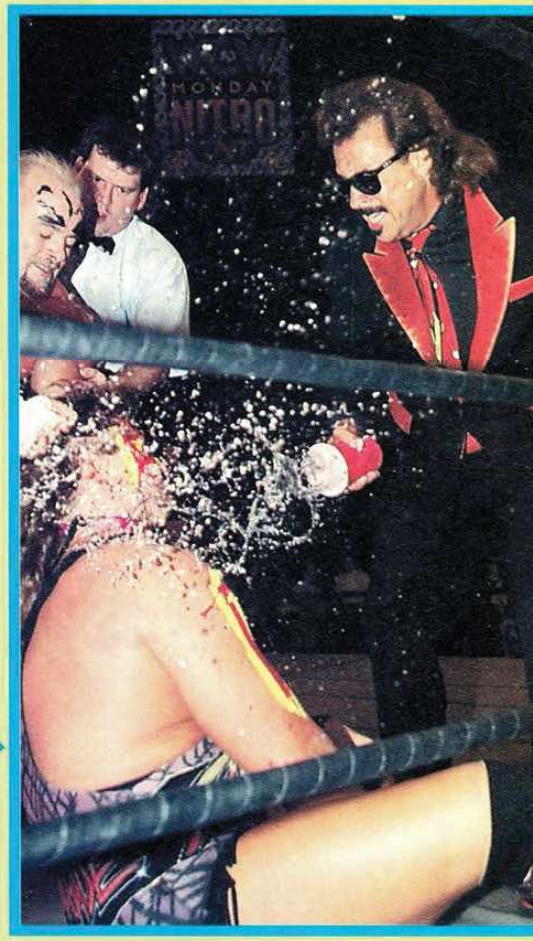
"I always told Renegade that he could be the next Hulk Hogan. I tried motivating him the same way a football coach would do if you wanted someone to be like Joe Montana or Dan Marino. I saw stardom in this boy. But, he eventually lost that eye of the tiger and once again became plain old Rick."

tter of time...

Hart added: "The bottom line is this, if it takes Jimmy Hart stepping across the line to get the eye of the tiger back in Hulk Hogan or Renegade, then I'll do it. It's like any good coach or manager in football, basketball, baseball or hockey, you want to get the best out of your team, whatever it takes. And that's what I'm doing."

Hart stressed that the split with Hogan also was, in part, contributed to the fact that while Hart was "taking care of business," Hogan was "in Hollywood, making B-grade movies that ended up in video stores before they hit the silver screen."

"It's like this," Hart said, "if Hulk Hogan wants something, everyone jumps. If he wants something painted blue, hey, we paint it blue.

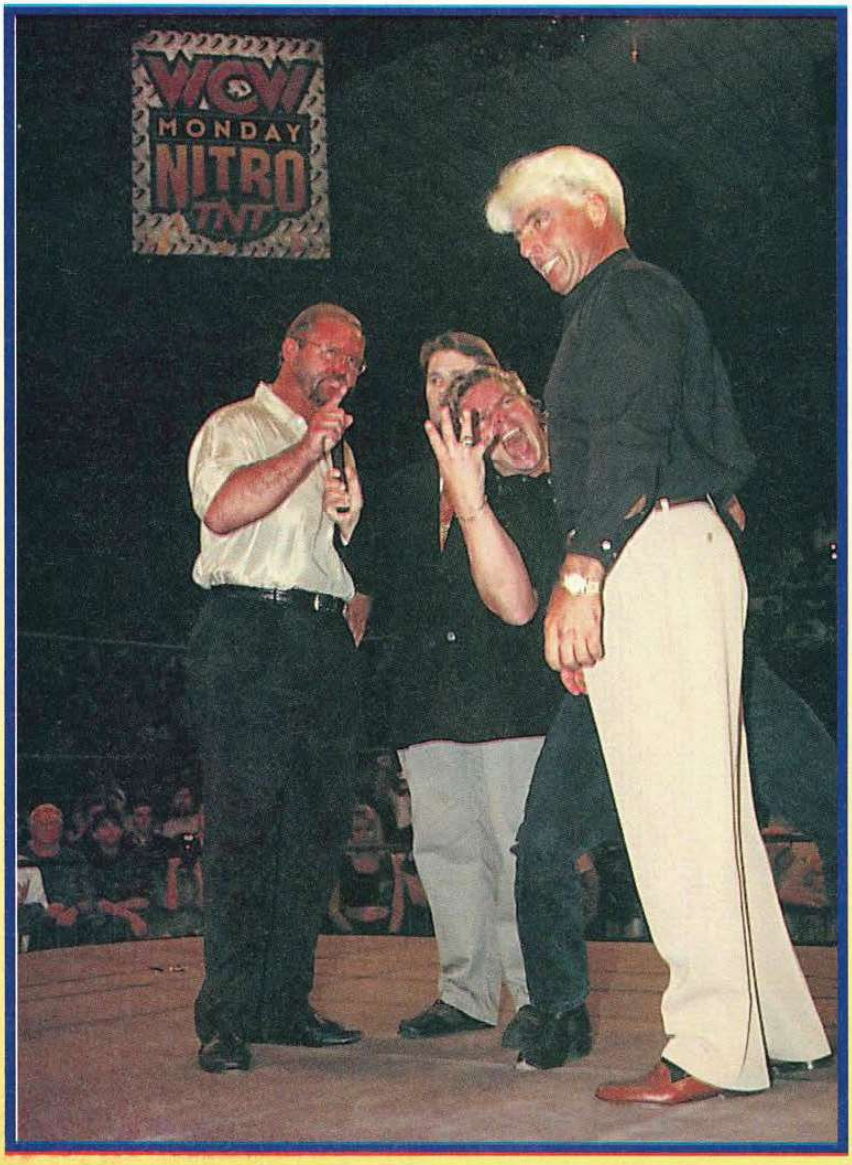


It's like it was with Elvis Presley...he was getting fat, but all of his friends kept telling him, 'King, you look great!' All of Hulk's friends simply tell him what he wants to hear. Not Jimmy Hart. I told him what he didn't want to hear: the truth. And, in the end, Jimmy Hart just got tired of telling Hulk Hogan what he didn't want to hear."

Now, all that Jimmy Hart says is words that fans don't want to hear.

IN THE HOTSEAT

Arn Anderson



If Arn Anderson played in the National Football League, he'd be a linebacker, maybe a guard, or perhaps just a tackle. He certainly wouldn't be the superstar quarterback a la Dan Marino of the Miami Dolphins; that would be Ric Flair. Nor would Anderson be the high-profile, Emmitt Smith-like running back or a wide receiver on par with Jerry Rice; those spots would be filled by Flyin' Brian Pillman and "The Canadian Crippler" Chris Benoit.

Anderson, you see, isn't flashy or sassy. There isn't a lot of glitz to his game. He's a work-horse, hence the nickname, "The Enforcer." But one thing is certain when you're talking about the bearded brawler from Minnesota...he's a winner. Better yet and to keep in the football theme, let's just put it this way: Anderson would be a regular February visitor to Hawaii and not as a tourist; he'd be a perennial Pro Bowler.

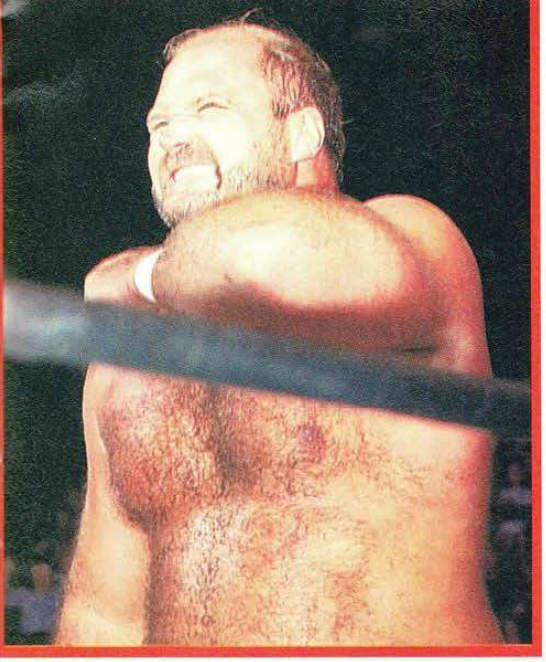
"For me, professional wrestling is just a business. I want to make the most money possible. That's Flair's goal as well, even though he has more ego than I do. I know Pillman and Benoit feel the same way too. And how do you make the most money? By winning, plain and simple," said Anderson, who made his wrestling debut in 1982 (a loss to Bob Armstrong in Dothan, AL).

"I think a lot of things were accomplished by Arn Anderson in 1995. This was the best year I've had in about five years and not too far behind my best years ever, which were 1986-90, when I was on top of my game. Yes, 1995 was a great year for me. I was healthy for the first time since 1992 and that played a big part."

Anderson was the World Television Champion in early-1995, his fourth title reign with that strap and his first since 1991. He first won that belt in January of 1986. Anderson, in '95, retained the belt for several months, even over "Macho Man" Randy Savage (albeit because of the time limit). He eventually lost the belt to Renegade, then feuded with his long-time comrade Ric Flair. Yes, the two then-former Horsemen — Anderson and Flair — had some of the best matches of the year in a feud no one thought they'd ever see. Anderson didn't back down one bit from the 11-time champ and even secured some wins along the way, proving, without a doubt, that he is not, as Dusty Rhodes often calls him, a "Walk-Behinder." Anderson can — and does — battle with the best and he often wins, although not with the charisma of others.

Bottom line, Arn Anderson is the most under-rated wrestler in WCW.

"When you don't present a lot of flash or showmanship, you get passed over for a lot of things. When you're just a wrestler, which is basically all I am, you are just a hero to the 'wrestling purists.' Those people don't look at what I wear to the ring; rather, they look at what I do (from) bell to bell," Anderson said. "When my career is finally over, I want the people who have followed wrestling over the years to say, 'Arn Anderson gave his best



everytime you saw him, whether it was in front of 500 or 25,000 people.'"

Anderson has been a five-time WCW Tag Team Champion, and even held the WWF equivalent with Tully Blanchard (as The Brain Busters, managed by Bobby "The Brain" Heenan). His first title reign started in September of 1987. Anderson's DDT is as lethal as any — Kurasawa will attest to that, as the Japanese star fell victim to Double-A's finisher on the main event of a WCW Saturday Night in mid-November.

"I just look like a regular guy. If you see me in street-clothes, I wear (prescription) glasses and blend in with everyone else. And that's fine with me," said Anderson who, during this interview, never raised his voice — much like his interview style when the cameras are rolling.

"Unless I'm at work in the ring, where you will always get 120 percent out of me, I just like to spend time with my family, do the traditional family-oriented things. I like to go grocery shopping, go to the movies, dine out, fish and attend my son's football games. And I usually don't mind signing autographs. I don't want to be the center of attention outside the ring. Why's that, you might wonder. Well, because I'm basically just a regular guy."

Until he gets in the ring, that is. That's when he becomes Anderson the technician. On par with anyone.

"Everyone would love to be WCW World Champion, no doubt about that. However, becoming the World Champion isn't necessarily the barometer of a career; there have been so many great wrestlers in the past who haven't been the World Champion, or even held a major title," Anderson said. "Still, I would like to know that feeling, even if only for a day, the feeling that I was the very best at what I did."

"Hulk Hogan is someone — and one of the few, mind you — who I have never wrestled. Someday, though, it'll happen, hopefully. I just want to see how my skills compare against his, whether or not he's Champion at the time."

The Four Horsemen ride again

"For the past two or three years," Anderson began, "every time I pulled up to an arena, people would ask me two questions: 'Where is Ole?' and 'When are you going to re-unite The Four Horsemen?' It didn't matter what feud I was in, how many matches I had won in a row, how many I had lost in a row, or even what I was wearing."

In Detroit, MI, on October 29, at Halloween Havoc, The Four Horsemen were re-born. With one punch — Ric Flair's right fist to the jaw of Sting, thus ending another brief 'friendship' between Flair and Sting — The Four Horsemen established themselves and came back to town, ready to ride.

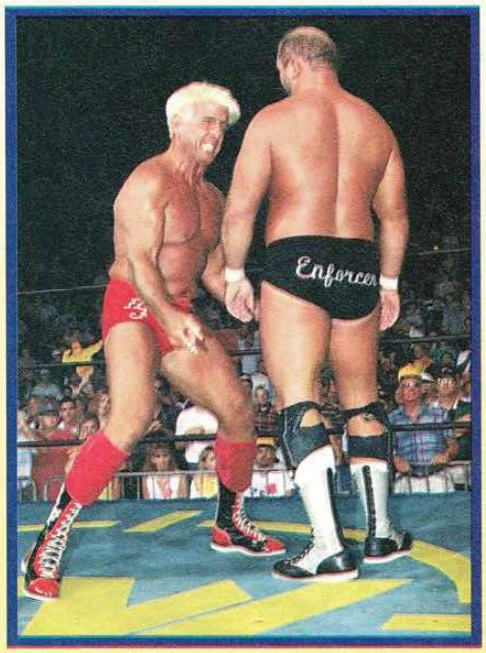
Flair, Pillman, Benoit and Anderson...this is the elite evil force.

"The way I see things, it's best to pick the four guys who you want to stand in the middle of the ring with because the odds of winning are always best when it's one collective unit versus four individuals," Anderson said. "The Four Horsemen of the '90s are going to be stronger than The Four Horsemen of the '80s, if only because we're all more business-like. Plus, we've all been through a lot of adversity; we know where we're going, so, heaven help everyone in WCW."

"Our first priority is to get some titles. To languish in mediocrity is not the answer, especially for The Four Horsemen, because we have always been four individuals with a collective goal: championships."

Anderson, with a smirk on his face as he talks about the quartet, adds, "A lot of times in the past we led ourselves to victory through emotion when we were out-gunned. Now, we're just going to out-class whoever we're wrestling. People have said, 'The Four Horsemen are dead!' But, the people who say that are those who want it dead. You can not take something that was that successful, that legendary and simply stamp it out just because some people think it should be. It was just a matter of time before we put it back together. We're all very happy about the new — and improved — Four Horsemen."

As for Ole Anderson, Arn reports he is retired from wrestling, living near a lake north of Atlanta. "He's enjoying life, reaping the benefits of his successful wrestling career," Arn said.



The original Horsemen featured manager J.J. Dillon, the mouth-piece for the unit, however, Anderson said don't expect his return. Dillon is now a high-ranking, behind-the-scenes executive with the WWF. Plus, Anderson said, "At this stage of the game, I don't think we need a manager, particularly because no one has more business-savvy than Ric Flair. He has enough corporate lawyers for all of us."

Speaking of Flair, what about that war with The Nature Boy?

"Man-to-man against Ric Flair, it was something I basically had to do. Was I man enough to stand in there with Ric Flair? I had to prove to myself that I was as much a man as Ric Flair and that was proven," Anderson said. "I gave Ric a wake-up call which, by the end of '95, proved to a lot of people that Ric Flair is as good now as he ever was.

"The war between us had been brewing for a long time and we didn't even know it. In some ways, I think Ric looked down on me professionally. I think he always knew he was the flagship guy (of The Four Horsemen) and I was one level below him. I think I proved I'm on his level, no questions about it. The matches were very demanding; in fact, that's probably the best way to describe the whole feud because it was personal, not just professional. The matches against Ric were some of the best matches I have ever been involved in and certainly the hardest. It also was the most mentally draining, for me and my family and him and his family. I'm glad they're over. I'm glad we got things resolved. I think we're better men for it."

Anderson is, unquestionably, the thinker of the Horsemen. He's also the master of mischief. If Flair claims he wrote the book on cheap-shotting, Anderson was his co-author. Perfection is Anderson's way, his only way. Want proof? Consider his thinking on retirement.

"I will retire when I can no longer wrestle at what I feel is 100 percent Arn Anderson. If I have to wrestle at 70 percent or 80 percent Arn Anderson, even though that might be better than everyone else's 100 percent, it's not good enough for me," he said. "Plus, I want to walk away from professional wrestling, not limp away. The sport has been very good to me."

And, whether you love him or hate him, Arn Anderson has been very good for the sport.

Arn Anderson speaks his mind about other WCW superstars:

HULK HOGAN
"A man who knows better than anyone in the history of this sport how to win."

"MACHO MAN" RANDY SAVAGE
"I wish I could bottle his tenacity and sell it on the open market."

STING
"The wrestler of the future... probably the most colorful, flamboyant wrestler of our time."

LEX LUGER
"Tremendous physique...when his wrestling skills equal his physical skills, he's unstoppable."

RIC FLAIR
"The greatest champion of all time."

THE BLUE BLOODS
"Pure wrestling ability...perhaps a clash of backgrounds will be their downfall."

"HACKSAW" JIM DUGGAN
"Street-fighter...I wouldn't mind wrestling him, but I wouldn't want to fight him in a dark alley."

DIAMOND DALLAS PAGE
"Probably the greatest over-achiever of our time."

KIMBERLY
"She's a 10."

BIG BUBBA ROGERS
"Probably the most mobile, functional big-man — that being 300-plus-pounds — in our sport."

HARLEM HEAT
"The tag team of the '90s."

THE AMERICAN MALES
"The next two years will tell, but, if you go on pure talent, they will be one of the greatest tag teams ever."

JOHNNY B. BADD
"More guts than ability. When his ability reaches the level of his guts, he'll be a major champion."

THE NASTY BOYS
"No order of priorities. They always find a way to out-fight you."

JIMMY HART
"One of, if not the, most successful manager of all time."

SISTER SHERRI
"The toughest broad I ever knew."

"MR. WONDERFUL" PAUL ORNDORFF
"One of the greatest technical wrestlers I have ever known. If he has one draw-back, it's his temper. If he is ever able to focus all of that energy, he will be the World Champion."

COL. ROBERT PARKER
"Probably the greatest spokesman for anyone. He can get his point across in a way that will keep everyone listening."

KEVIN SULLIVAN
"Legitimately, the devil."

DAVE SULLIVAN
"Legitimately, a goof."

BOBBY "THE BRAIN" HEENAN
"The wittiest man I have ever met."

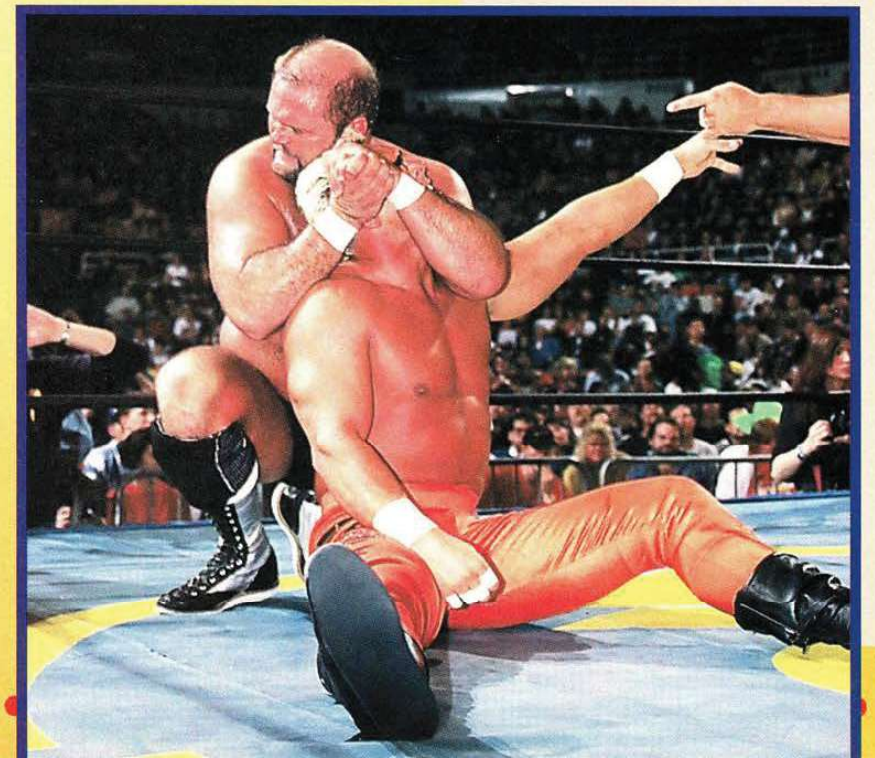
'MEAN' GENE OKERLUND
"The classiest man I have ever met."

STEVE McMICHAEL
"Too big to ask."

ERIC BISCHOFF
"The man who will take WCW into the year 2000...innovative...can clearly see the future...can see the big picture better than anyone I have met."

TONY SCHIAVONE
"Other than Ric Flair, probably the longest friend I have had in the wrestling business."

THE GIANT
"The first legitimate giant in the wrestling business who also is a great athlete."



For 15 years, Steve McMichael's life centered around the Sunday afternoon action on a 100-yard field.

McMichael has since retired from the National Football League (NFL), so where does he find action nowadays? Monday nights on TNT, as the four-time All-Pro "rude and crude defensive lineman," as he calls himself. McMichael is a co-host (with Eric Bischoff and Bobby "'The Brain" Heenan) on Nitro, telecast live each week on TNT.

"I always wondered, 'How am I going to get that fix that I got from a football game?' I didn't think there was going to be anything comparable," McMichael said. "Then I signed on with World Championship Wrestling. WCW is pure action, the kind you aren't going to see in football now because the owners have handcuffs on the players against the vicious hits and the league is constantly fining for tough hits. Trust me, you'll see those vicious hits here in WCW."

"Vinson Smith of the Chicago Bears was fined $12,000 earlier in the season for a 'vicious hit.' Shoot, in WCW, Smith's hit would be a love-tap."

Despite his imposing 6-foot-2, near-300-pound frame, McMichael is content as a broadcast-journalist. He has no qualms now about staying on the sidelines, even if it includes working alongside Bobby "The Brain" Heenan.

"I'm just going to sit back and commentate on these great athletes, at least for now," he said. "But, if someone wants to put a little pooh-pooh in my concarne, if you know what I mean, I will reciprocate, I promise you that."

"As for "The Stain,"' as I like to call him, sure, he has the quickest wit of any sportscaster I know and, yeah, he makes me laugh which is a hard thing to do, but, if he gets out of line for one second — BOOM! — I'll slap him silly."

Heenan, though, had a bit of advice for the longtime Chicago Bear, although the longtime broadcast-journalist would not say it directly to McMichael.

"McNuggets, stay seated and shut your mouth. You had your turn in the spotlight with the Cubbies, or whatever loser team you played for in Chicago...you're now in my world. And don't think for a moment that, just because you're bigger than me, that I can't wallop you. Remember, grease-ball, I'm 'The Brain'!"

When told of Heenan's comments, McMichael simply laughed and said, 'Shoot, my dog Pepe, who will be right next to me in the broadcast booth, could handle Heenan. After all, Pepe is his weight-class champion...and that's the five-pound division."

McMichael's NFL career also included stints in Green Bay and New England. He played in an amazing 225 games and ranks among the top 15 sack artists in NFL history with 95. He had 844 career tackles, 15 fumble recoveries, 12 forced fumbles, 30 passes defensed, three safeties and two interceptions.

McMichael was a member of the 1985 Bears team that won at SuperBowl XX, a 46-10 thrashing of the Patriots.

"I still remember those Sunday walks to the field, where the goosebumps would make their way throughout your whole body. Well, that same feeling is what I get in the wrestling world. This is a wonderful thing," McMichael said. "These athletes here in WCW are simply marvellous, kind of like a bunch of No.1 NFL draft choices playing on the same team."

"WCW wrestling is the only action sport you have left that is raw and unadulterated. It's like (auto) races, you don't go to watch them go around the track...you go to see them crash. I promise, that will happen here in WCW."

The bright lights of television are nothing new to McMichael, who spent five years behind the camera in Chicago on two sports shows, providing post-game insight. His talents were recognized in 1994 with an Emmy for his work on Sports Edge on WFLD-TV, Fox 32.

"What you see is what you get with Steve McMichael," said McMichael, whose Texas drawl is as familiar as his catchy phrases, such as, "hot damn tamales."

McMichael was a college star at the University of Texas, where he earned two All-America honors and was a finalist for the Outland Trophy and the Lombardi Award. He is a Freer, Texas, native, who was inducted into the Texas Hall of Fame in 1992.

"The one thing I really thought I'd miss about football was the locker room atmosphere. However, being around these wrestlers is like being around pure kin," McMichael said with a huge grin. "No one will be watching Monday Night Football anymore. Just think about it, the quarterbacks are wearing skirts and the offensive linemen's guts are bigger than their chests. This is where the real athletes are at. It's non-stop action."

McMichael currently resides in Austin, Texas, with his wife, Debra, who was Mrs. Illinois in 1987 and Mrs. Texas in 1992. In his spare time, he enjoys rattlesnake hunting, fishing and golfing.

"I've been a wrestling fan since I was knee-high to a midget wrestler," McMichael said, and I've learned that there are two things in life that you never want to do, play leap-frog with a unicorn and mess with Hulk Hogan."

McMichael has no children, but claims his four dogs and four cats are his off-spring.

"A lot of people have asked me, 'What is your wrestling highlight?' Well, hopefully that's in the future, and I expect there to be a lot of them."

Yes, Steve McMichael has arrived...so watch out, everyone!

Introducing..

Steve McMichael

INVASION 1995

Take a long hard look around your home. Look at the television set, the stereo, your computer, microwave and even your camera. Where was it manufactured? I'm betting that in most cases the answer is Japan. Every aspect of western civilization seems to have come under the control of Japan. From the major entertainment corporations right through to the automobile industry.

So, it should come as no surprise that WCW, the organization that represents the best in U.S. professional wrestling has become the latest target for a Japanese takeover bid.

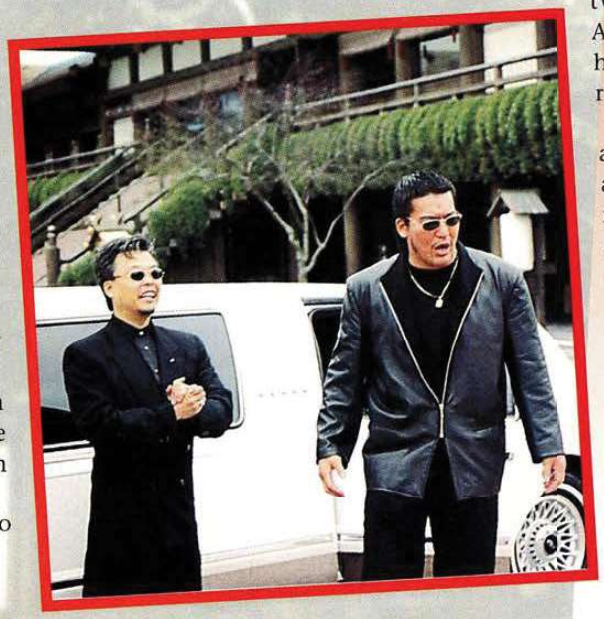
Ever since mysterious Japanese billionaire Sonny Onoo purchased WCW's Pro Wrestling TV show, WCW has been invaded by New Japan's top stars who have shown scant respect for their opponents and the American way of life. They have promised WCW will be under full Japanese control following Starrcade '95.

We recently caught up with Mr. Onoo in Japan where he introduced us to his "Asian Assassins."

"Japan has nothing left to prove to the world. We produce the finest automobiles and electronic gadgets. We have revolutionized the movie and music industries and now we are going to prove just where the finest wrestlers in the world come from," Mr. Onoo told us. "First I am bringing the two finest junior heavyweights the world has ever seen in Ohtani and Kanemoto. Jushin "Thunder" Liger needs no introduction to your stupid American fans, he is the greatest high-flyer of all-time. Masa Chono, what do I need to say. He is so mean he will make every American bow down before his mighty STF. I believe you all remember my torturer, Mr Saito. He will bend and break every wrestler in WCW. He knows how to make them, how do you say it...crack."

"Ha!" Mr. Saito interjected. "Onoo san, with your yen and my power, very soon we will have all the gold," he boasted as he exploded into manic laughter.

"Very true Saito san," Onoo continued. "Finally meet the pride of Japan, our young power warrior, Kensuke Sasaki. He WILL destroy all your precious American heroes... Sting, Lex Luger, Hulk Hogan and Randy Savage. He will prove just how worthless all your pathetic wrestlers are."



Fighting words indeed. We visited Onoo later on at his penthouse luxury office. He was flanked by two of his stunning blond American assistants as we asked him about his future plans regarding WCW.

He told us, "Bobby Heenan, a very wise man, approached me about WCW. He acted as a realtor and, as a business man I could see the merits in his proposal. For years you and the American press have said WCW is the number one wrestling organization in the WORLD. Maybe it is America's finest, after all where is the competition, but there is a world beyond the shores of the U.S.A. That is what I am going

THE JAPANESE HAVE LANDED

to show to the people of America."

When we tackled him about the anti-American undertones that we felt his comments generated he said, "I love America. I love many things in America. But I think America could be better, much better. You have great stars and great announcers in WCW, otherwise I wouldn't be here. However I must send them to school. They must learn the Japanese way. They must adopt our work ethics. They must work harder and longer to achieve their goals. They must become bi-lingual. All WCW shows should be available with a Japanese commentary. We will make WCW even better. We will get rid of those stupid referees who don't even understand the rules of the sport, let alone command any knowledge of the Japanese language. We also have to make sure that all the cameras and all the electronic equipment comes from Japan. WCW produces a good show, but with the right equipment it could be phenomenal."

So Mr. Onoo are you saying Japan and it's culture and industry are better than that in the U.S.?

"I'm not saying the Japanese are better. No, better is not a good word...we are just SUPERIOR. Yes that's a good word, superior," he explained.

Onoo continued, "I just want to clear up one thing before we go on. WCW does have the finest wrestlers anywhere in America. I have been searching for the finest wrestlers in the world though. I have been all over the planet and the thing I discovered is that the best wrestlers were right there in my own backyard, Japan. The team I have assembled will leave their puny American counterparts with no chance, no, not even a small beam of light to defeat us. But I will not let my people be over confident, it will be an easy walk for us, but we will be properly prepared. We have better discipline, we are better athletes and we have better spirit."

"I am also looking to sign some of the stars that are also already here in WCW. I have recently purchased Mr. Kurasawa, a fine Japanese wrestler from Col. Parker. He is a typical stupid chicken-loving American. In Japan we call him Yakitori. He is like all Americans. He jumped the gun and I have purchased a bargain. The only other wrestler I would perhaps consider would be Meng. He is also an Asian brother, from Tonga, but he would have to prove he would be a good acquisition."

Does Mr. Onoo have an ultimate goal he wants to achieve?

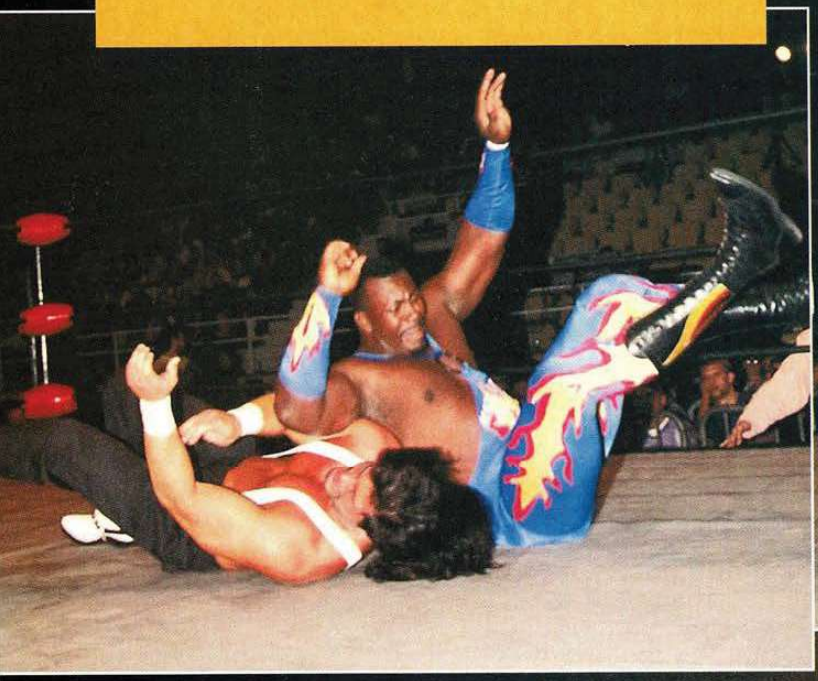
"Sure I want it all. If I can't win WCW, then I'll buy it. You see I learned a long time ago, if I can't beat it out of you, then I'll just buy it. So as a final message to all you American wrestlers. Don't eat anymore hamburgers. Don't eat anymore hot dogs and definitely no more of your cheezy pizzas. The Japanese invasion has landed, try and show some pride and provide us with a little competition!"

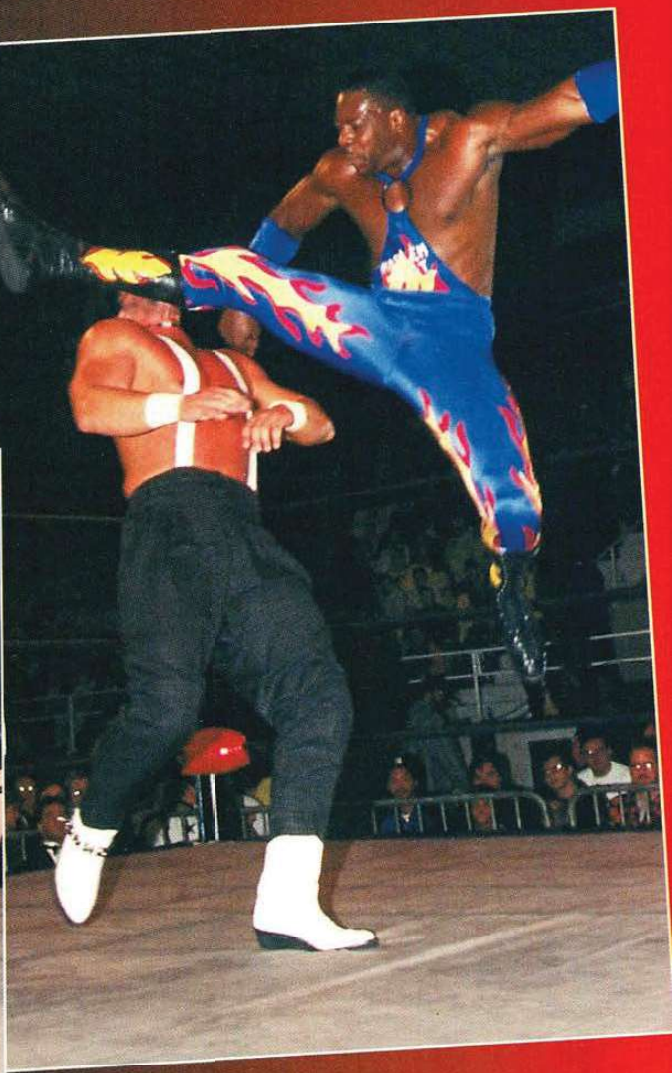
EXPERT HARL

ASSESSMENT

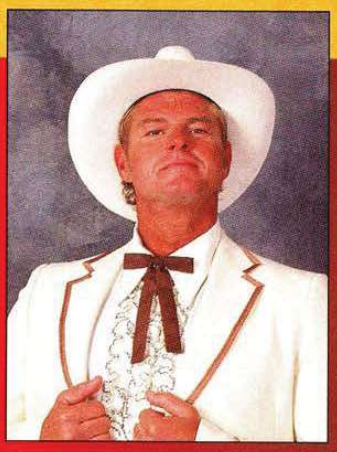
In this exclusive WCW Magazine feature, four of World Championship Wrestling's most knowledgeable personalities take an up-close-and-personal look at current WCW Superstars.
These aren't comments you'll hear at the arenas or on TV-these are the true beliefs of the biggest and most provocative mindsets in the sport today!

Names: Booker T & Stevie Ray
Height: 6'2" & 6'5"
Weight: 258lb & 291lbs
Birthday: March 1 & August 22
Hometown: Harlem, NY
Signature Maneuver: Harlem Hangover
Titles Held:
WCW World Tag team Champions (4 Times)
1/95, 6/95, 9/95, 10/95





LEM HEAT



"Well, barring my feelings for Sherri...wait one moment. There's no way I can bar my feelings for Sherri! Not for that woman! In every way, she's more woman than everyone I've ever seen. That should give you a small indication about how I feel about Harlem Heat. In my opinion, they've fed off her talents.

Colonel Robert Parker

They're mediocre, but with Sherri by their side, it makes them a complete team. They can't beat my Stud Stable, Bunkhouse Buck and Dick Slater —- no way! They don't stand a chance against my Super Assassins either. Possibly, they could do it if Sherri uses her feminine wiles and that gives 'em a chance. Listen, want to hear something big? I got designs on Sherri..."

Col. Robert Parker is the self-proclaimed greatest showman in the world. He has several top WCW wrestlers under his guidance.

"If you're looking for a lot of great scientific holds and stuff, the Heat ain't the way to go. If you're lookin' for a fight, though, Stevie Ray and Booker T might be the best brawlers in WCW today, with the possible exception of the Nasty Boys, of course. Things are kinda crazy in the WCW tag team ranks these days, with so many really great teams vying for the

Dusty Rhodes

World Tag Team Championship. The fact that Harlem Heat is always right there at or near the top should tell you all you need to know about these tough New York dudes."

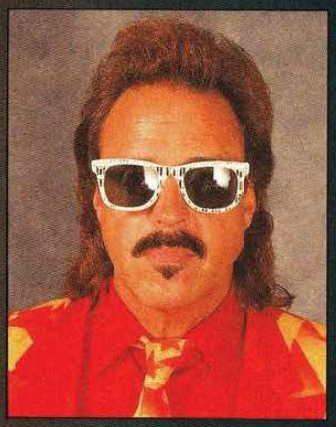
Dusty Rhodes, "The American Dream," is one of the most popular wrestlers of all time. During his incredible career he has managed to win the NWA World Heavyweight Championship on three different occasions.

"Too many of the so-called critics out there — and I'm surrounded by them in the WCW broadcast booth — think they know everything there is to know about tag team wrestling. They think that because Harlem Heat have won the World Tag Team title four times, that they now have reached 'grizzled veteran' status. How wrong can you be? Stevie

Larry Zbyszko

Ray and Booker T are still young athletes! They're still learning and perfecting their styles as they go along! I mean, they've won the title four times and they're not even CLOSE to realizing their potential! This could be the dominant WCW tag team of the '90s...perhaps of all time."

"Living Legend" Larry Zbyszko is regarded as one of the greatest wrestlers in history. He is currently the co-host of WCW Pro on TBS Superstation.



"I pull the coup of the century and pull the wool over that ingrate Hulk Hogan's eyes and the first thing you can think of to ask me is a question about Harlem Heat? Your reporting style is as lame as your magazine! Right now, I'm all wrapped up in The Dungeon of Doom to worry about stupid questions, but let me

Jimmy Hart

put it this way: Luger and Meng. The Yeti and The Giant. The Laughing Man and One Man Gang. Any of these teams will be the next WCW World Tag Team Champions, baby. That pushes Harlem Heat to also-ran status for sure."

Jimmy Hart is arguably the greatest manager in the history of the sport. Currently he is associated with The Dungeon of Doom and Lex Luger.

Can WCW tame Sabu?

Since his debut in 1991, the incredible young star named Sabu has thrilled mat observers all over the globe with his incredible aerial ability and balance. At the same time, he's nearly sickened those same fans with his penchant for unbridled ring tactics, most specifically his use of tables as weapons. Can even a tough administrator like WCW Commissioner Nick Bockwinkel curb Sabu's lust for ring mayhem?

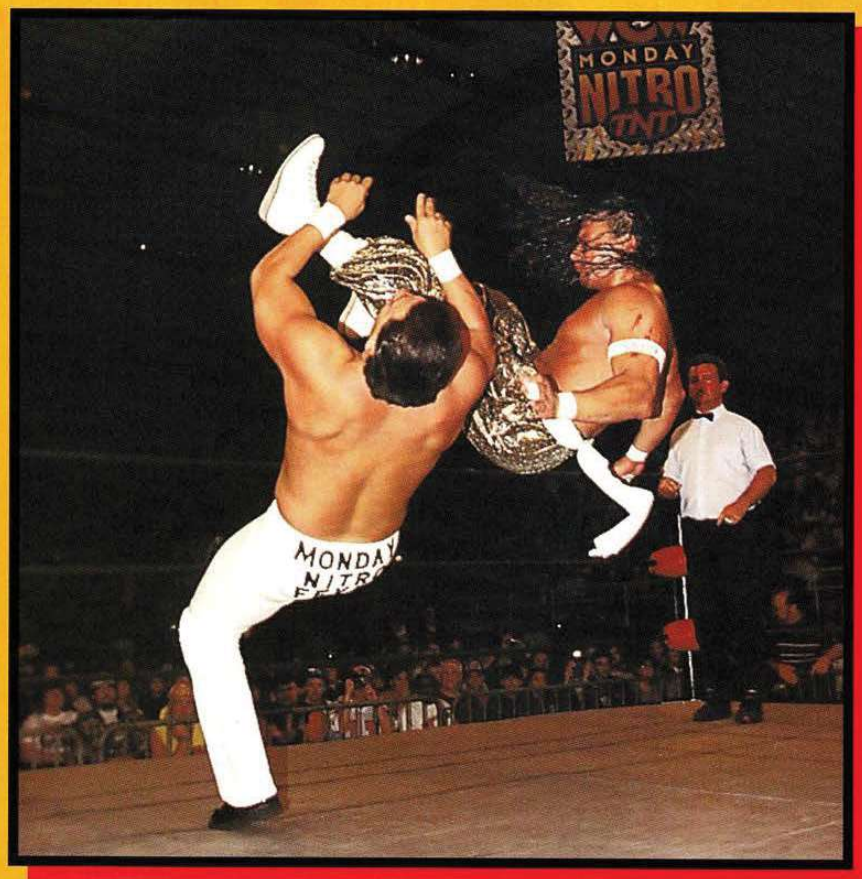
Nick Patrick is concerned. Randy Anderson is worried. Even diehard WCW fans have had their sensibilities shocked. When Sabu entered WCW just a few short months ago, fans didn't really know what to except from the high-flying native of Bombay, India. Now that he's here, though, fans are constantly wondering what this maniacal athlete will do next!

In fact, fans have more questions about this scarred 230-pounder than about any newcomer who's entered WCW in years. What's his fascination with the ring lights all about? What is his association with The Sheik, one of the most hated men in the sport's long history? Most important, why does he insist on catapulting himself onto wooden ring tables, even after the match is through? This is the wildest competitor WCW has seen come into its ranks in years and there is plenty of reason to be alarmed.

Alex Wright knows all about Sabu's propensity for sheer terror. During his first appearance on WCW Monday Nitro, Sabu defeated Das Wunderkind, but lost the bout. Why? Even after he scored a stunning pinfall, Sabu wasn't satisfied with the victory. He began hurling things around the ringside area, eventually grabbing a wooden table. Then, in a heinous act never before seen in WCW, he placed the prone Wright on the table, then moonsaulted through the table from the ring! Fans gasped for Alex' safety, but the referee was not about to let Sabu get away with such cruelty. Sabu was disqualified for his actions, but his reputation was now established. This man is wild!

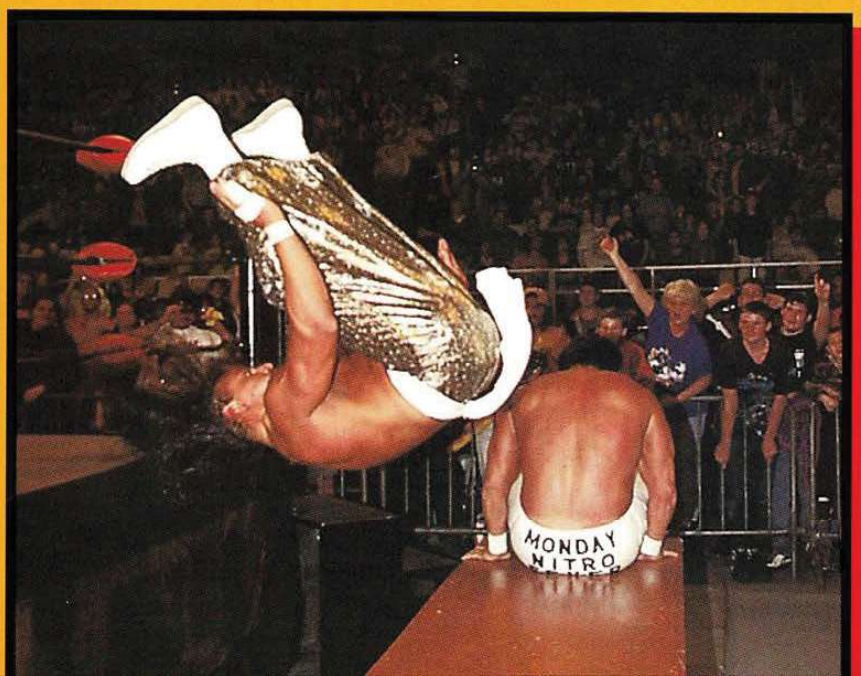
None of this has gotten past WCW's tough commissioner, former AWA world champion Nick Bockwinkel. Himself a rulebreaker during a large portion of his career, Bockwinkel was a different kind than Sabu in that he bent the rules to suit his needs rather than openly flaunting lawlessness. When WCW Magazine asked the respected Bockwinkel about recent incidents in the league, particularly Sabu's table attacks on Wright and Disco Inferno, the Commissioner tried to be diplomatic — he didn't even mention Sabu by name.

"There have been many incidents that have taken place under our



auspices that I can't legally have any control over, such as things that happened at The Dungeon of Doom," said Bockwinkel, still one of the sport's most learned and erudite men. "However, if a WCW competitor openly breaks the rules during a match — note that I said DURING a match — all WCW officials have been advised to disqualify anyone who seeks to injure his opponent. I don't care how spectacular a maneuver or hold is. If you break the rules, you're gone!"

Sabu hasn't seemed to care that he risks disqualifications in his bouts. Why? It could be because Sabu has received the bulk of his training from the Original Sheik, one of the most bloodthirsty men ever. In a career that began during the '50s and amazingly continues to this day, Sheik has committed acts so vile and cruel that taste prevents us from mentioning them all here. The fact that Sheik hurled a fireball into the face of the defeated Mr. J.L. at Halloween Havoc should tell you that this man has no regard for wins or losses, but for inflicting the highest possible degree of pain on his foes. Sheik used foreign objects to carve up his foes during the prime of his career as well.

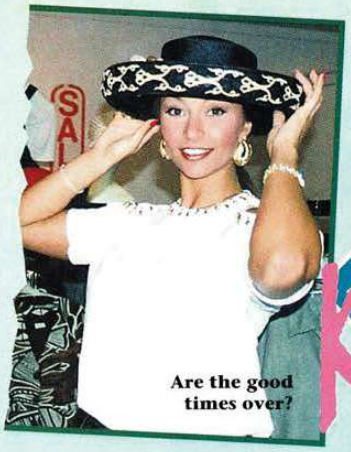


What makes Sabu truly frightening, however, is that he combines Sheik's bloodlust with incredible aerial ability. He's not afraid to dive from the top turnbuckle onto his opponents on the ring floor and when he misses, he almost seems impervious to pain.

Amazingly, Sabu's style has never changed! When he broke into the sport in the Detroit area in 1991, within weeks he was legendary for his ring fearlessness and his willingness to take risk after risk in search of victories. So what is Sabu searching for now? It's hard to figure, since he speaks no English and grants no interviews. Even WCW's contingent of rulebreakers seems to want very little to do with the turbaned lunatic.

"Hey, keep me away from that guy," says Diamond Dallas Page. "He's always got that far away look in his eyes, like he's seein' a ghost or something! He gives me the willies!"

Most WCW wrestlers would agree with Page's summation of Sabu's antics. There's little doubt that as Sabu's career in WCW continues, he'll thrill fans with some of the most outrageous table-breaking, death-defying wrestling moves ever! Rest assured, however, that if he steps too far over the line, Patrick, Anderson, Bockwinkel and the rest of the WCW officials will be keeping their eyes on him. They don't want Sabu turning all of WCW's top competitors into kindling the way he does those ringside tables!



Are the good times over?

Diamond Dallas Page's Kimberly's guide to KIMBERLY

The locker-room door was open, the lights were on inside and the television was on. However, Diamond Dallas Page was nowhere to be found.

It was the exact time and day that the $13 million man had agreed to do his column for WCW Magazine.

But where was the money man?

Suddenly, a figure appeared from behind a wall inside the room. It wasn't DDP, but rather, his sexy Doll, Kimberly.

"Oh, hi," she said, with a smile on her face, "I knew you were coming, but I don't know where DDP is at. He doesn't tell me a lot of things, like where he goes."

"Please, have a seat on the couch and make yourself at home. Here's the remote control for the television, in case you want to change the channel. Would you like anything to drink, perhaps some Coca-Cola?"

Kimberly's hospitality was such a stark contrast to the treatment received by most, especially those in the media, from DDP. His most pleasant words are...silent.

"As I said, I have no idea where DDP is at, nor do I know when he'll be back. However, if there is anything I can get for you, I'd be glad to," Kimberly said.

Hmmm, we thought, this could be a golden opportunity. Say, Kimberly, how about if we do a feature story on you —since DDP is AWOL.

"Sure, if you want to," said the ever-shy Kimberly.

Let's start out with an easy one, Kimberly. Tell us a little about yourself?

"Well," she began slowly, "I'm from a small town in the Midwest. I was raised by loving parents who are caring, giving and supportive. I attended college in the South, which is where I met DDP. My favorite color is pink and my favorite flowers are tiger lillies. I love animals and have always wanted to become a veterinarian. Are these answers OK?"

Yes, Kimberly was quickly getting the hang of this interview situation.

"My favorite foods are oatmeal and strawberry jam — not together, mind you," she added. "I really like participating in sports, such as roller-blading and horseback riding. I also enjoy hiking. I enjoy watching all sorts of sports on TV, of course wrestling is my favorite. My favorite teams are the Chicago Bears, Miami Dolphins, Atlanta Braves and Auburn Tigers. My favorite athletes are Cal Ripken, Jr. and Michael Jordan. I enjoy listening to 'soft music' — not heavy metal. As for TV shows, I am hooked on 'Friends' and, I guess it's safe to say, I have qualities similar to all three of the actresses on that show."

Kimberly didn't stop there. She added, "I love traveling. That's one thing about WCW that I really enjoy, getting the chance to meet the fans. I wouldn't trade that opportunity for anything in the world."

Kimberly, still the gracious host, again offered this reporter a soft drink.

"Dallas always wanted me to remain in the background, for whatever reason," she said. "I guess it's because he has a lot of important things to say, so he says. The big problem with that is, it doesn't give me the chance to talk directly to the fans, something I thoroughly enjoy doing."

"Fans always want to know how I met Dallas, well, that's simple. It was on a spring vacation one year in Florida. I was on the beach, enjoying the sunshine when Dallas drove up in this enormous pink cadillac, barely missing a couple of sunbathers. Sure, he was raunchy and wrapped up in himself, but, he had this magnetic quality about him that literally swept me off my feet."

So then, Kimberly, how about answering one of the fans' most-asked questions...Why have you stayed with DDP for as long as you have when he has treated you so poorly?

"You see, I'm the kind of person who looks for the good in everyone, no matter how bad, how dirty or how dastardly they appear on the outside. So, I must say that Dallas does in fact have a lot of fine qualities," Kimberly said. "Dallas did a lot for me, so, I kind of felt like I owed it to him."

Until, that is, DDP's devilish antics — along with Max Muscle — against Badd and his car.

"Dallas hasn't been a fair man, especially with and against Johnny. I noticed that," said Kimberly, who began crying. "I really don't know if I want to talk too much more as this is very hard for me, especially since I'm not accustomed to having a microphone in my face — usually it's Dallas' pointing finger."

Can we just ask you what you see as your immediate future?

"Well candidly, I am just beginning to feel like a human being instead of an object. A new friend of mine has given me the confidence and self belief that I can achieve anything I want. I'm not prepared to carry on with Dallas if he isn't going to respect me. He has got a lot to learn..."

All of a sudden, the door was kicked open, and in walked DDP. "What the hell are you doing here, you pencil-necked geek," DDP snapped. "Get out and don't come back...no interview this month!"

Little did he know that, in reality, Kimberly offered a better column than anything DDP could have penned.

P.S. Since this event we have been unable to contact either DDP or Kimberly.

MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE!

With each passing week, more members seem to be entering The Dungeon Of Doom and that can't be good news for WCW! Now there are more members in the Dungeon than ever. Can Hulkamania and WCW, possibly survive he Taskmaster's army of rulebreakers?

Kevin Sullivan is in his glory these days and with good reason. The Taskmaster has been active in WCW for years, but for the first time in his career, he's surrounded by wrestlers even stranger than he is!

In one corner of the locker room, Sullivan sees Meng fiddling with his Asiatic Spike and he smiles. He turns around and he sees the almost eight-foot-tall Yeti struggling with his bandages and he laughs. And when he sees Jimmy Hart and The Giant walk into the room, he can't control his maniacal laughter. Sullivan has assembled the biggest and most powerful band of rulebreakers ever and things just keep on getting stranger.

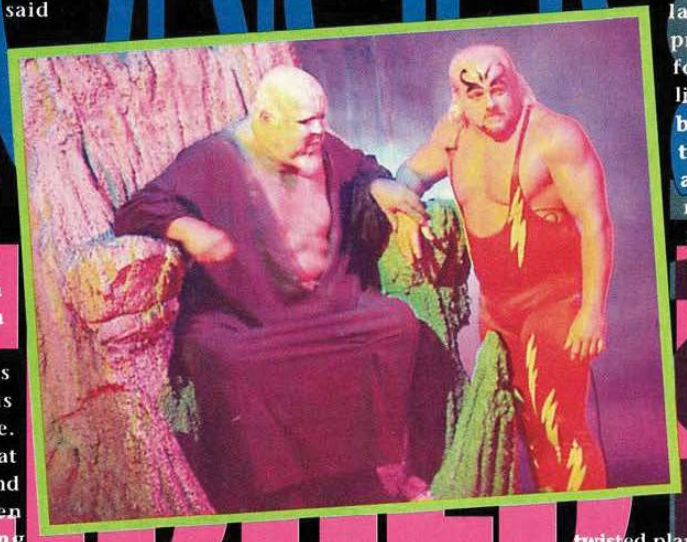
"I have followed my father's instructions very carefully," said Taskmaster on a recent edition of WCW Pro Wrestling, which quickly has become a Saturday morning program that just can't be missed. "He has brought more men into The Dungeon Of Doom every time. He has brought me the men I need to rid WCW of Hulkamania forever. This time, Hulkamania is dead! Buried! Gone!"

Sullivan's brash comments are frightening, but he has yet to make them come true. Even after the brutalization that his team doled out to Hogan and Randy Savage at Halloween Havoc, Hogan keeps fighting on. However, the mental scars and the uncertainty caused by the latest DOD roster changes have to be causing Hogan many a sleepless night.

First and foremost, whoever expected Jimmy Hart, of all people, to turn so coldly against Hogan the way he did? Not only that, but Hart was working behind the scenes with former fan favorite Lex Luger as well, convincing the "Total Package" that a trip to the Dungeon would do his career a world of good. Now, both Hart and Luger are DOD associates, which by itself is enough to make WCW fans totally disgusted.

However, just before Luger and Hart defected from Hogan's camp, new members joined Zodiac and Shark to make the DOD an incredible fighting force. In a major coup, Sullivan convinced one of the world's biggest talents, Meng, to join his alliance. Already a frightening WCW presence, Meng has taken to donning bizarre, oversized headgear and he's begun employing his Asiatic Spike, a maneuver that Sullivan first brought to the sport more than 15 years ago. Meng has scored a steady string of victories on behalf of the DOD, most notably one against Luger, who Meng often teams with!

Not much is known about the Yeti other than the man is just a bit bigger than the incredible Giant. The bandages have gone but this near-eight-foot Oriental martial artist is still a total mystery. Sullivan and the DOD seem to be saving the Yeti for special occasions, probably when the huge monster can create the most damage. "He is our insurance policy at Halloween Havoc," said Sullivan's Father, and that ominous prediction almost came true when The Giant and Yeti combined to nearly double-bearhug Hogan into complete oblivion at the end of the incredible Halloween Havoc main event.



In addition, two new additions to the DOD are making the organization even bigger and stronger. The Taskmaster has lured the crazed One Man Gang, for long one of the sport's biggest brawlers, out of retirement. This street fighting Chicago native has slimmed just a bit, but he's lost no power and he even seems to be just that much faster. One Man Gang's battles against such stars as Road Warrior Hawk and even Hogan in the past have been legendary and it seems certain that Taskmaster will send him into battle against Hogan or Savage, or both, in the months to come.

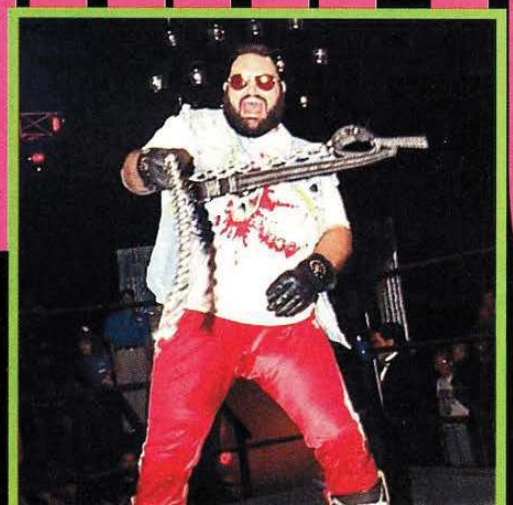
So there are enough crazy men in the DOD to fill a loony bin, right? We haven't even taken the Laughing Man, Hugh Morrus into account! This hyena-like nutcase has been driving fans crazy with his non-stop laughter on several WCW programs and his penchant for anarchy made him a likely candidate to be spotted by Taskmaster. The result is that now the DOD has yet another man with crazed motives to make life miserable for WCW favorites.

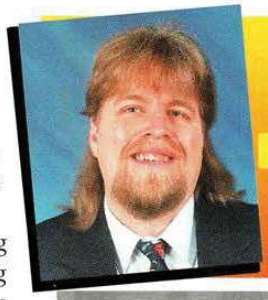
"Hee, hee, hee heeee! HAAAAAA!" was the only real response we could get from the Laughing Man after asking what his career aspirations were. Naturally, this man's sinister countenance is perfect for Sullivan's twisted plans.

Think of it. The Giant. Lex Luger. Jimmy Hart. Meng. The Yeti. Shark. Zodiac. Laughing Man. One Man Gang. The Taskmaster. Ten men, all bent on destroying everything that Hogan and Savage, not to mention Sting, have done for WCW during the past year.

"We are just beginning!" Taskmaster warned. "War is coming and we won't rest until the great white Bengal tiger, Hogan himself, is ripped from WCW forever!"

Can even the greatness of Hulk Hogan and the prayers of his millions of Hulkamaniacs, save him from the 10 men who want him gone for good? Thus far, they haven't succeeded, but they seem to be getting closer to their ultimate goal.





HotLiNe

MARK MADDEN

When you're the No.1 wrestling organization in the nation, finding another like company to co-promote an inter-league spectacular is tough. Unless you are willing to go international.

WCW has done that, aligning itself with New Japan Pro Wrestling for no fewer than three big shows culminating with Starrcade on December 27. Two WCW-New Japan co-op shows took place in Japan in November.

WCW and New Japan aren't exactly strangers to each other. The two have been affiliated for some time. But Starrcade will be the first full co-op show on American soil, with every match pitting WCW against New Japan.

The New Japan guys are, trust me, the best wrestlers you've probably never heard of. Of the seven New Japan wrestlers tentatively scheduled for Starrcade as of this writing, only three have even worked sporadically in the U.S.

So, here are some capsule profiles on New Japan's magnificent seven for Starrcade. It's worth noting that you won't hear Eric Bischoff and Co. insult New Japan on TNT Monday Nitro the way they have other lesser organizations.

There's a reason for that.

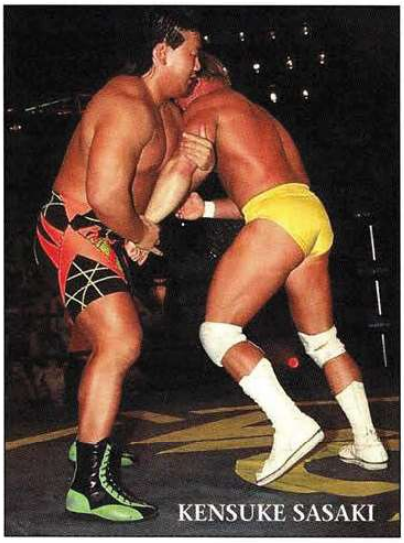
New Japan is just as good as WCW, now we'll find out if its better.

HIROYOSHI TENZAN, 24.
(Started with New Japan in 1991.)

Tenzan is New Japan's next big thing, a superstar-in-waiting. He previously held the IWGP world tag team championship with Masa Chono and engaged IWGP world champion Keiji Muto in an epic title match this year.

Tenzan's signature moves are the moonsault and the mountain bomb. In the mountain bomb, Tenzan puts his opponent into an airplane spin, then turns it into a power bomb. He is also noted for crossing his hands to deliver simultaneous chop-like blows to both sides of an opponents neck.

Tenzan is trouble for anyone he wrestles. He's quick, he's strong, he's intense, he's a future world champion.



KENSUKE SASAKI

KENSUKE SASAKI, 29.
(Started with New Japan in 1986.)

Sasaki has held the IWGP world tag team belts four times, twice with Road Warrior Hawk as a member of the Hell Raisers, twice with Hiroshi Hase. Sasaki has kind of a split personality: as a Hell Raiser, he wears the Road Warrior make-up and shoulder pads and turns lazy, relying on power and power alone.

But when he wrestles as plain old Kensuke Sasaki, he combines power with speed to become one of New Japan's most impressive performers. His signature moves are a lightning-fast power slam, a quick hiplock takedown called an ipponzei, and the power strangle submission hold.

Sasaki is married to Akira Hokuto, one of Japan's top women's wrestlers. He is the protege of former IWGP world champion Riki Choshu.

SHINJIRO OHTANI, 24.
(Started with New Japan in 1992.)

Ohtani is a former UWA junior heavyweight champion and has wins over Chris Benoit and Eddy Guerrero. He and Benoit combined to win New Japan's annual junior heavyweight tag team tournament in 1994. He is not IWGP junior heavyweight champ, but is considered, for all intents and purposes, New Japan's best junior heavyweight.

Ohtani's flying moves are breath-taking, especially his springboard dropkick and springboard plancha outside the ring. He is also an accomplished technical wrestler, able to execute any suplex in the book.

Ohtani is basically a fan made good; he used to attend New Japan matches as a kid dressed as his hero, Jushin "Thunder" Liger.

KOJI KANEMOTO, 29.
(Started with New Japan in 1990.)

He started out as the third Tiger Mask, succeeding Satoru Sayama and Mitsuhara Misawa under the hood, but has enjoyed more success since stripping off the mask. He is currently IWGP junior heavyweight champion and a former UWA junior heavyweight champ.

Kanemoto has no real signature moves, but does an unbelievable amount of crazy stuff off the top rope combined with martial arts-style kicks.

Kanemoto was much heralded as a rookie early in the decade, but many now say he hasn't fulfiled his promise. Nonetheless, he has held titles and he has beaten Sabu twice. He also has international experience, having recently worked for the AAA promotion in Mexico as Tiger Mask.

KOJI KANEMOTO

BUZZ

JUSHIN "THUNDER" LIGER

JUSHIN "THUNDER" LIGER, 31.
(Started with New Japan in 1984.)

One of Japan's most storied wrestlers ever. He started out wrestling without a mask as Keiichi Yamada. He trained in New Japan's dojo and under Stu Hart in Calgary, getting some of his first pro experience there. He also wrestled in England as Flying Fuji Yamada, winning the world heavy middleweight title twice.

Yamada became Liger in 1989, donning a mask and costume based on a popular Saturday morning cartoon character in Japan. As Liger, he has held the IWGP junior heavyweight crown a record six times. Liger has wrestled extensively in Mexico and did a WCW tour, trading wins and the WCW Light Heavyweight title with Flyin' Brian Pillman.

Although he hasn't done it for a year or two, Liger's shooting star press may be the most electrifying move in wrestling. He jumps off the top turnbuckle and does a reverse flip before splashing on his foe. Besides the shooting star, Liger has maybe the wildest array of flying moves in wrestling as well as a strong assortment of kicks, including the somersaulting koppo kick.

MASA SAITO, 53.
(Started with New Japan in 1974).

Saito has wrestled just about everywhere they have wrestling. He's a former two-time world tag team champion with Kenji Shibuya and a former WWF tag team champion with Mr. Fuji. He has held numerous singles titles in America, most notably the AWA world championship. He has also held the IWGP tag team championship twice with Riki Choshu and Shinja Hashimoto.

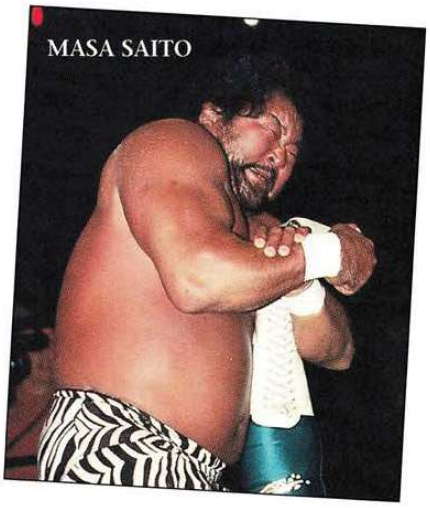
Saito's signature move is the corkscrew side suplex, which has been his trademark for so long that most call it the Saito suplex. He gets his foe up and down in a hurry. He is a brilliant amateur-style wrestler and at the time he entered the pro ranks, he was considered Japan's greatest amateur heavyweight.

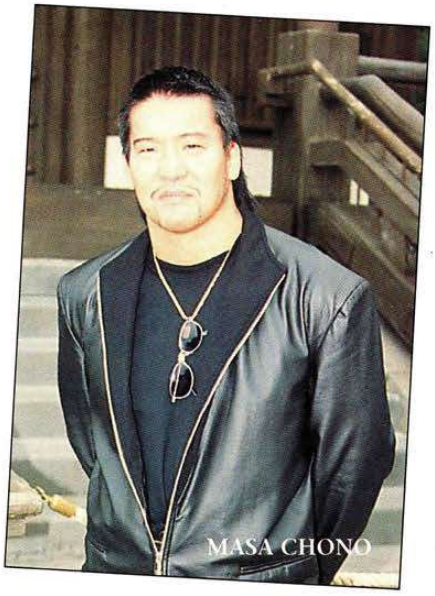
He's old, but he's tough and you should pity any WCW wrestler who has to face this torture specialist in the ring.

MASA CHONO, 32.
(Started with New Japan in 1984.)

Chono came to the U.S. as a youngster to gain experience in regional promotions based in Kansas City and Birmingham. He also gained invaluable experience wrestling in Europe for the CWA. Chono won New Japan's prestigious G-1 tournament in 1991, 1992 and 1994. He is a former NWA world heavyweight champion. He has also held the IWGP tag team championship twice, once with Keiji Muto, once with Hiroyoshi Tenzan.

Chono's time in America left him largely Americanized in terms of wrestling style. His finisher is the STF, a stepover toehold with crossface, which he learned from legendary NWA world champion Lou Thesz. Chono beat Thesz in 1990 in Thesz' last match ever, making him submit to the STF. He also uses the Yakuza kick to the face and is an excellent mat wrestler.


MASA SAITO


MASA CHONO

Psychologically, Chono eschews the sometimes too-serious attitude of New Japan and works the crowd like a classic American bad guy.

There you have them, the probable New Japan all-stars for Starrcade 1995. One scary thing to note: Only one of New Japan's champions, Kanemoto, is participating at Starrcade. IWGP world champion Keiji Muto is busy feuding with ex-UWFI world champion Nobuhiko Takada while IWGP world tag champs Shinja Hashimoto and Junji Hirata are involved with Chono and Tenzan.

Another scary thing to note. New Japan is a money machine. Of the ten biggest live gates in wrestling history, New Japan has drawn eight.

I don't know how New Japan's wrestlers will be presented to WCW fans. I hope, given WCW's recent penchant for scrambling the distinction between good and bad, the New Japan wrestlers will be judged on their own merits.

But no matter how they're presented, their merits are overwhelming. WCW is definitely the No.1 organization in the U.S. But in the world? New Japan has a little bit to say about that.

Mark Madden hosts the WCW Hotline updates on a Wednesday and Friday

TALKING POINT

WITH TONY SCHIAVONE

My time in the World Wrestling Federation (1989-90) provided me with many things; however, what I remember most is how many Broadway shows I was able to see.

It is with that in mind (and in keeping with the theme of this issue) that I apologize to the New York theater district and give my 1995 WCW Tony Awards. Given to the wrestler(s) in each category who measure up to the standards I set from where I sit, behind the microphone.

MATCH OF THE YEAR:
Ric Flair vs. Arn Anderson, Fall Brawl.

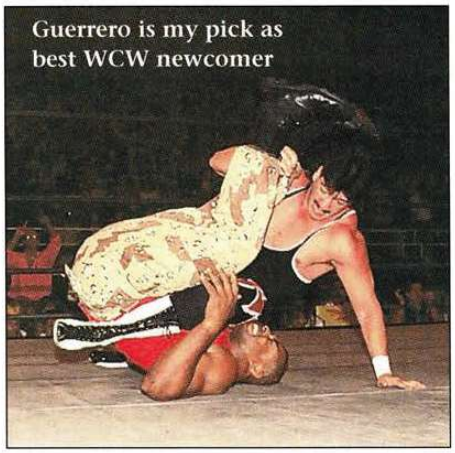
It is amazing. I mean, when you think of what has happened since then. The teaming of Flair and Sting. The betrayal. The revenge that almost made Sting snap. The Four Horsemen riding again. However, most everyone by now realizes that Anderson and Flair patched things up after their classic match in September.

The match had everything and, as the broadcaster at the time, I think it was my finest call. The fact that Flyin' Brian helped Arn Anderson win made me sick, but, prior to that, the emotion of seeing two close friends go at it for the first time was a treat. Ric Flair has had many battles in his great career, but, he was in top shape on this Sunday. Plus, he had the fans behind him. It was in that same building — the Asheville Civic Center in Asheville, N.C. — that he returned to WCW two and a half years earlier. He was (and, of course, still is) a legend in front of his home crowd.

The match was like watching Babe Ruth playing home run derby at Yankee Stadium against Joe DiMaggio.

For a time, I thought they would stop, look at each other, shake hands and make up. But no; it did not happen. Instead, they gave us not only the Match of the Year, but, quite possibly, the Match of the '90s.

It was a night I will never forget.


Guerrero is my pick as best WCW newcomer

ANNOUNCER OF THE YEAR:
Mean Gene Okerlund

This one is the easiest. Gene Okerlund is, without a doubt, the finest announcer in this sport. No one adds more excitement, humor or insight to a wrestling program than Mean Gene. I think he will go down in history as the best of all time.

BEST WCW NEWCOMER:
Eddy Guerrero

This should be easy, but it really isn't. With Chris Benoit, Dean Malenko, Sabu, J.L., V.K. Wallstreet, One Man Gang and others, making this choice became very tough. However, Guerrero is really the finest I have ever seen. And he does this in a world of big men. I mean, look, most are bigger than him. However, he makes up for his lack of size with a combination of execution, speed, quickness, knowledge and heart.

I truly think Eddy Guerrero could be the NEXT WCW World Champion if given the shot...he's that good!

TAG TEAM OF THE YEAR:
Bunkhouse Buck and "Dirty" Dick Slater

Surprise, Surprise! But here's the reason: they lost the World titles while their manager, Col. Robert Parker, was bitten by the love bug. Had this not happened, then they still might be Champions. They are two rough brawlers who have survived in a world of wrestlers. Slater has been a U.S. Champion in the past and continues to go strong. Buck, even with all his drawbacks (smell and attitude, to name a couple), is one of the most successful men ever to step into the ring. They, like The American Males, won the Tag Team Championship, almost immediately after becoming a team. That is the sign of a great team. I gave Buck and Slater the nod over Harlem Heat because Sister Sherri is such a distraction. I think she pulls the team down and this was the final straw in favor of Buck and Slater.

WRESTLER OF THE YEAR:
Hulk Hogan

By the slimmest of margins. Here are the facts to back up my claim:

He was stalked all year by The Dungeon of Doom and they truly tried everything to destroy Hulkamania. From bringing in the alleged son of the late Andre The Giant to crushing his emotionally-tied motorcycle to having Jimmy Hart steal the World title from him. However, The Hulkster bounced back each and every time.

The power of Hulkamania is amazing. Hogan truly believes he will prevail despite the odds. And he does. He entered the Dungeon of Doom twice — and survived. His mustache was shaved off. His neck was yanked, again and again, yet he continued to walk straight ahead.

Who's second? Sting, because the man also did it all in 1995, including wrestle Hogan.

However, each and every time I see the World Heavyweight Championship belt around Hogan's waist, I realize he is the one true Champion of this sport. There will never be another Hulk Hogan and any announcer or writer who would say otherwise is either a fool or a liar, or both in the case of Bobby "The Brain" Heenan.

So there you have it, the 1995 WCW Tony Awards, from a very exciting year. And as we head into 1996, I can't help but wonder what surprises we will have in store. After all, this is World Championship Wrestling, where the big boys play.

THE Regal DECREE

I am writing this column on November 23rd, the day you Americans joyfully celebrate as a holiday — and I use that term loosely — called Thanksgiving. However, to me, Thanksgiving is just a meaningless, trivial holiday, another poor excuse for Americans to eat, drink and be merry. I think this is just another Thursday in November. Perhaps the only thing I'm thankful for today is, the fact I'm British — not American. Most of you Americans will add 10 or 15-pounds after gorging yourself on such peasant food as turkey, stuffing, cranberries and pumpkin pie. That's what you call a holiday? I don't, nor does the good Earl, Robert Eaton.

On to a more pressing and urgent matter: Starrcade, set for December 27th, in Nashville, TN. (We will talk about the city of Nashville later, but, first, a little about this mega-event.) What I have to say now might be a little too deep for you unfortunate peasants who don't bother to go to your local library, to read up on the times that we live in. Still, here's my reading of the pay-per-view.

Five days before the disastrous bombing of Pearl Harbor, British Intelligence informed a certain J. Edgar Hoover, head of the FBI, that Pearl Harbor was going to be bombed. But, being rather xenophobic toward British people, he couldn't accept such things. Instead, he denied such information and the atrocity occurred. Now history seems to be repeating itself. Everyone in America is gearing up for Starrcade. So, I am offering a plea — well in advance of five days — you need myself and the Earl, Robert Eaton, to battle the Japanese. The Americans — such as "Macho Man" Randy Savage and Sting — do not have the skill, discipline or desire to fight the most brilliant professional wrestlers in the world, the gentlemen from Japan. Sting has already embarrassed WCW by losing the belt to Kensuke Sasaki. We — The Blue Bloods — can help! But, as usual, you probably will refuse our offer, however, it's a good one. After all, if it wasn't for British help in the 1940s, this country would already be completely Japanese and Thanksgiving would be a Sushi-fest.

As for Nashville, the so-called Music City. To me, Nashville is dreadful — and so is the music that comes from there. It's a bunch of twanging noises and wallowing voices. Everything I despise about Americans is personified by country-and-western music. It is so un-English.

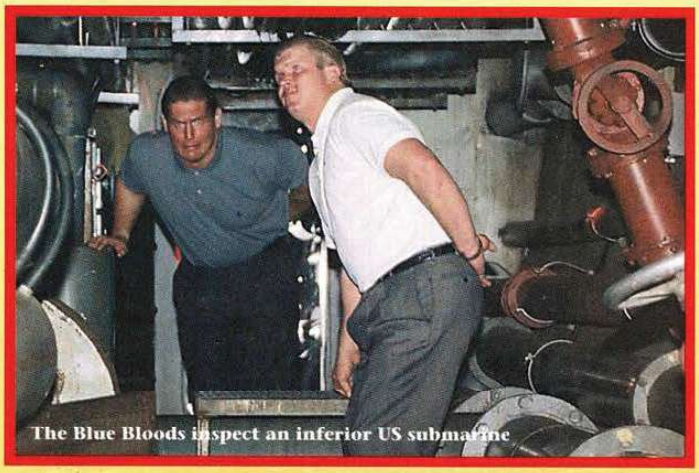
Christmas is a joyous holiday that Earl Robert and I truly enjoy, particularly because we won't be in the United States. Rather, we will be special guests of the Queen in Balmoral. We will be dining on pheasant and goose and drinking vintage port. You Americans look at Christmas as just another excuse to allow your children to gorge themselves on sickly confectioneries. The true meaning of Christmas has been lost in this land of commercial exploitation. Not to those of us of Royal stature.

I would like to share with you all a mid-November visit I made to Chicago, the Illinois city commonly called The Windy City. And quite rightfully so. The weather was too nasty for my liking, thus, I spent considerable time inside my presidential suite at the Drake. One night, in an effort to see what the local common folk do for entertainment, I went to a Chicago Blackhawks' hockey match at the United Center. Although the neighborhood around the Madison Avenue building was atrocious, I, to be quite honest, found the game rather entertaining, although I was quite uncomfortable being at a low-life sport. Yes, I'd prefer watching polo, but, the way I view life is...'When in Rome, do as the Romans.' They weren't Torvill and Dean but the combatants showed some skill in their skating, but there was just too much fisticuffs. I can not understand that fighting, it's shocking. You'd never see two Englishman battle as those hockey players did. We are proper sportsmen, with dignity and pride. Not the animals who play hockey. While at the game, I couldn't help but recall the good old days when The Good Earl and I would go skating on frozen lakes just outside of Blackpool. I still recall the scene: the ice was glimmering, the snow was falling and we chatted about physics all day.

Several days after the hockey match, I returned to that same building: to watch the Chicago Bulls. Yes, I saw that gentleman named Jordan. I forget his first name, but he wasn't very impressive anyway. I also had the unfortunate pleasure of meeting Dennis Rodman, that walking billboard for contraception. He was rude and uncouth toward me, showing no respect for nobility. He treated me with total disdain. If it wasn't for Robert, I would have given him a good slap in the face. While the athleticism of hockey was, at best, interesting, basketball should be called basketbore. You see, in England the ladies play this game called netball and only the ladies. And netball is the exact same as what you Americans call basketball. Those over-stuffed "athletes," and, again, I use that term quite loosely, they should be playing cricket or rugby — sports that real men play.

One final thing this edition, WCW held TV tapings in early-November in Orlando, FL, and I am ashamed to say that there were so many low-class British in town. No doubt they were there for Disney and please don't get me started on that despicable playpen. Anyway, the British who go there are simply the working class, those who saved every last penny they have to travel to America on some two-bit airline. They disturbed me quite greatly. In fact, when they are to return to England, I hope their planes break down and they are forced to stay in America. With the rest of the worldly scum.

Merry Christmas and may all your memories be as good as a visit to the Tower of London or Warwickshire Castle.



The Blue Bloods inspect an inferior US submarine

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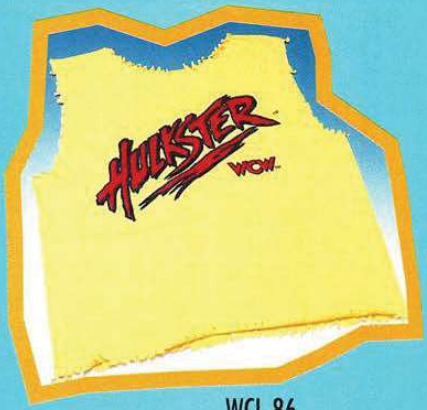

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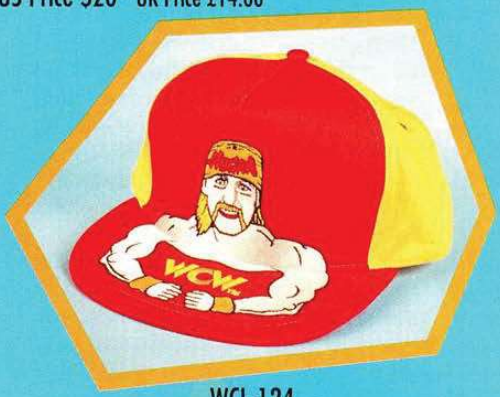

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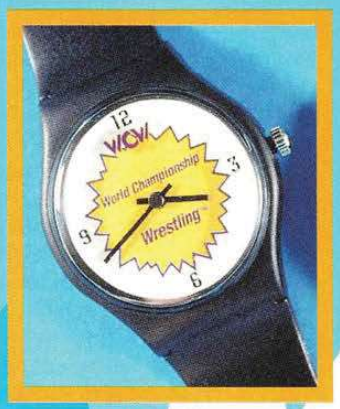

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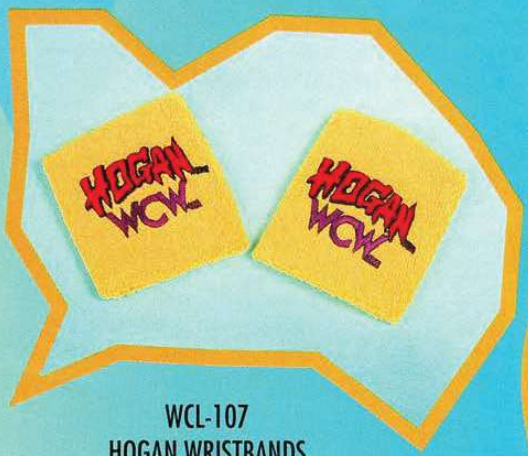

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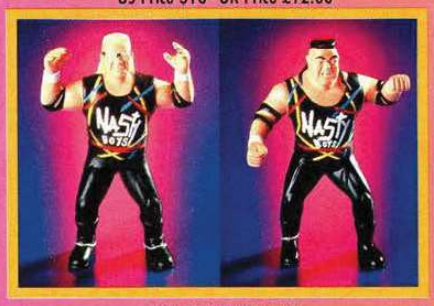

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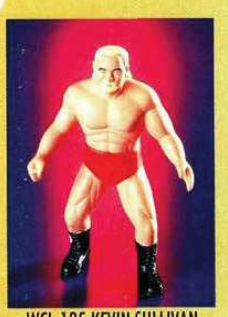

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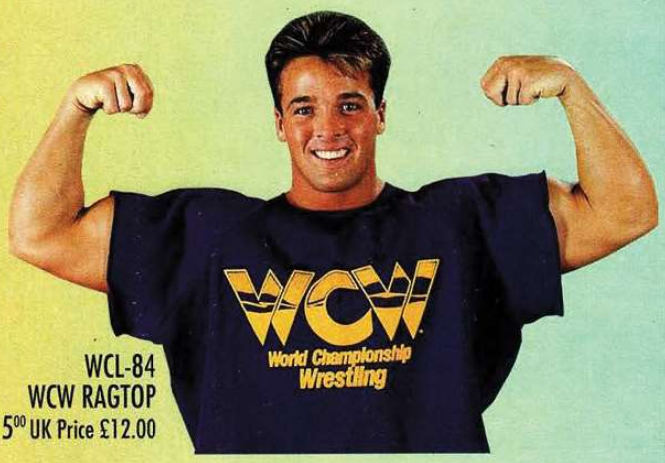

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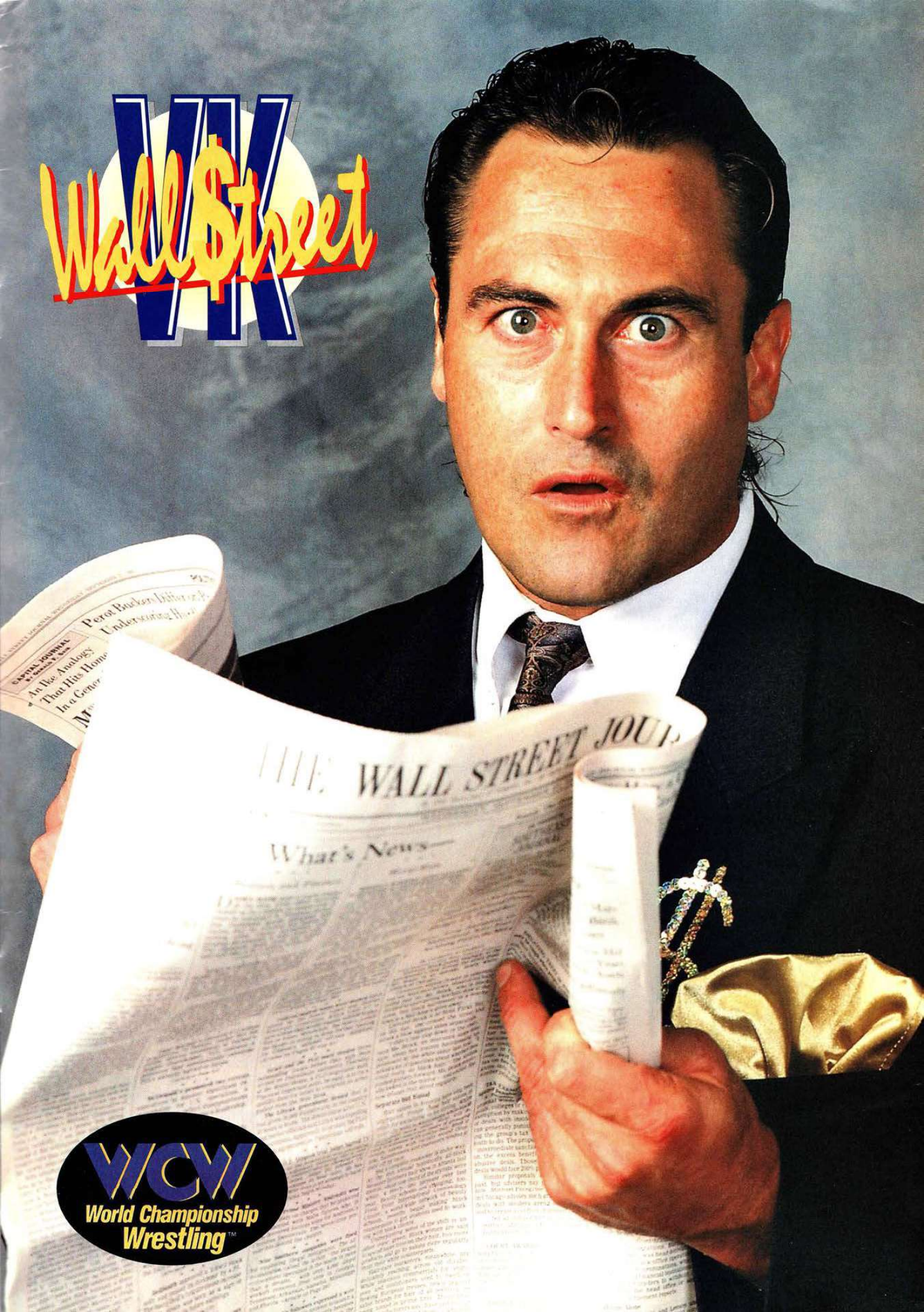
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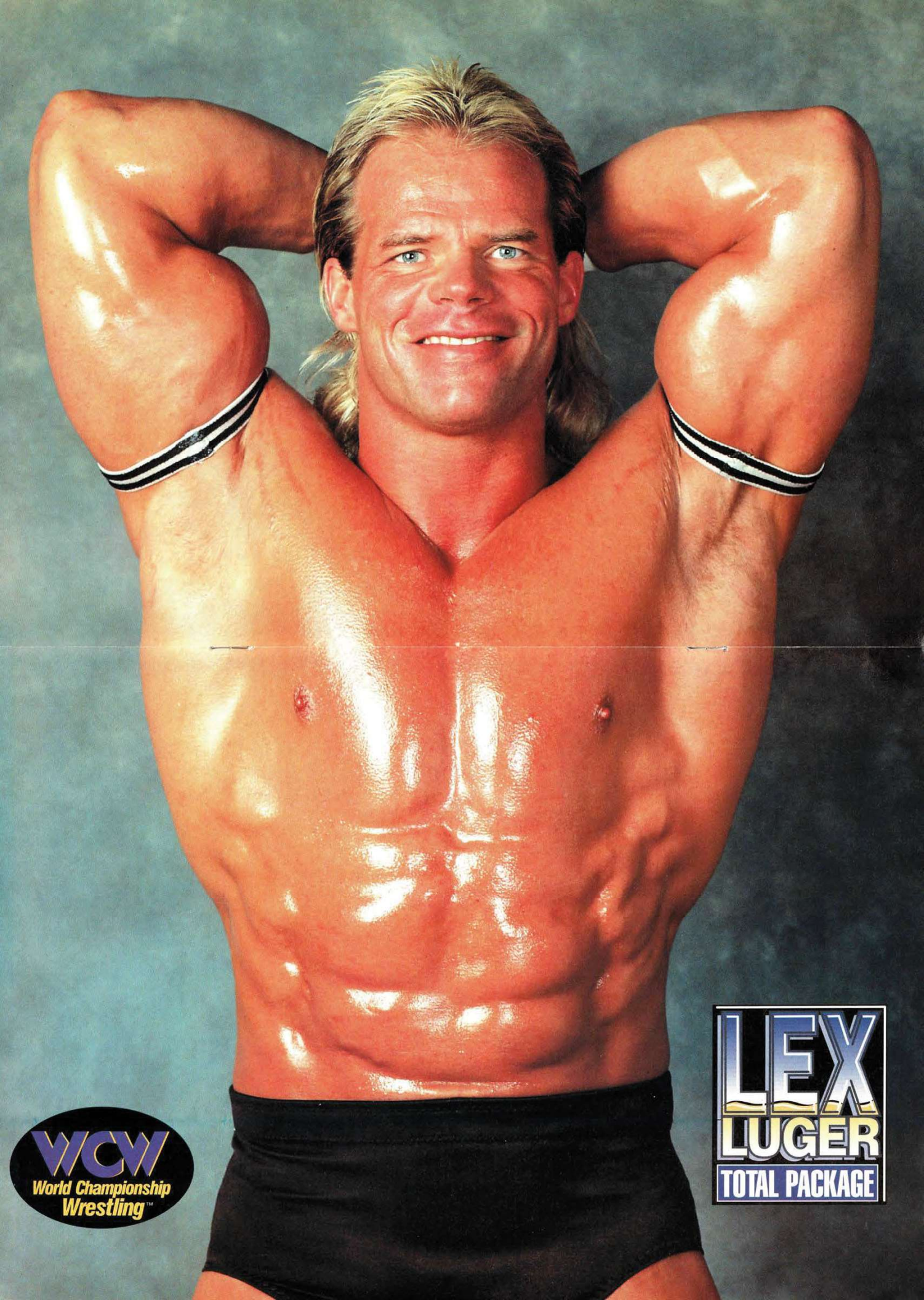
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